

Libraries

(A Continuation of Public Libraries)

Vol. 36

July, 1931

No. 7

Intellectual Freedom and Integrity¹

Adam Strohm, librarian, Public library, Detroit, Michigan

Conscious of the dignity and influence of this seat of learning whose guests we are privileged to be, we may well pause to inquire in how far we may follow its leadership and embrace its ideals.

Certainly in the case of a public institution, whereof I am but an imperfect deputy, its policy is not that of operating on the high levels of scholarship or being a claimant to such intellectual influence as is part of the traditions and accomplishment of Yale University. As an impetus in our own service we look to institutions of this kind for the creation of leaders—men whose careers are outstanding, not only if measured in terms of professional prestige but whose distinction and lasting impression on the popular mind rest on the clarity and courage of their minds and probity of ideals. It would be ungenerous if we did not honor institutions of higher learning by recognizing their chartered responsibility in the formation of national character, their mastery in assaying and purifying the human and intellectual ore brought to their laboratories. The greatness of any university finds its popular recognition

thru the service it renders the people in a national sense, thru its share in developing and crystallizing a national genius which should be intelligible to and cherished by all.

Such institutions require a good many distributing points in order to realize their most cherished hope—that of far-flung service to mankind. Among such agencies for the distribution of knowledge the public library takes its humble but now definitely established position. The leaders of public libraries are not charged with the pursuit of scholarship, but as promoters of sound public thinking we may perhaps speak in the same faith as our academic colleagues, as we are both defenders of the bill of rights of a self-governing people to intellectual freedom; we can be faithful to such a trust only if we preserve the integrity of our declared purpose.

During the past decade the American Library Association achieved an unprecedented growth in membership and specialization in service activities. It was an era when the national energy was tuned up to a production and expansion that took on the dimensions of an economic world conquest. This prosperity wave carried everything before it—among

¹ Presidential address delivered at the A.L.A. meeting, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, June 22.

other American institutions, the American library. Like all other corporations we decided to reorganize. The National Headquarters was departmentalized: specialists and boards were set up, charged with the responsibility of advisory service and exploratory undertakings. They were called upon to outline service policies to meet the standards of the new social, industrial and educational life which the national spirit was endeavoring to interpret on the high wave of prosperity and power. Leadership at Headquarters gave impetus to the new advance and met with generous support from all ranks; friends and powerful patrons registered their practical good will. We struck a fast pace, we gained territory, we achieved some objectives well worth while. Much remains to be done.

America is in a state of flux like the rest of the world. The industrial era has given us riches; it has also generated new conceptions of a life worthy of man, wherein sanitation, comfort, freedom and fellowship take their place in a new social order, where new capacities of living are revealed. A delicate interplay between rights and duties enters into a growing understanding of human relations. Modern transportation has brought restlessness about; we have no permanent anchor-ground; the old farm, the village of our boyhood, our home town are but archaic terms, welcome to our sense of humor—occasionally even serving as a springboard for the sarcastic flights of our scribes. Our state of opulence, of sacred memory, supplied us with costly social upholstery and standards of simonized physical comfort. When the fountains of financial fuel ceased to spout we were brought up sharp in our plunge to make a short cut to success.

We have heard laments about the arid wildernesses in America where no library service is available. It is reported that approximately 40,000,000 people are

without such contact. Accustomed as we are to associating popular educational service with print and other library accessories we are prone to forget that simplicity of surroundings, even hardships have educational effects often enriched by the fact that these untaught people are masters of their own destiny, humble as it may be. With confusion and helplessness all about us we might be tempted to ask if standards of life—national or individual—and character-making are not realized in the quiet corners of our land where life is a little primitive quite as soundly as in the great centers of energy where life is a little hectic and under the whip of the sensational.

No doubt it has been within the experience of our field workers to meet and be honored with the confidence of the simple, kindly folk of rural habitation, where the friendly return of a greeting and many other expressions of good will—with no thot of profit—are forthcoming quietly and in accordance with an ancient, unwritten code. These people know little of organized welfare work but they have the ability to stand on their own feet—give a lift where it is needed, help their friends without imposing upon the self respect of either.

Many of these folks of broken speech have their sanctuaries both within themselves and in the open where nature has revealed herself to their seeing eyes. Thither they wander in their hours of ease and commune with the mysterious truth of life, feeling its strength as does the Arab kneeling on his prayer rug. Out of such golden threads are woven folk history, national culture and deep attachments—the soil out of which national literature blossoms and comes to harvest. We might find that more human virtues and a deeper unselfish affection are born and kept alive in the "wee hoose in the heather" than in the Alpine country of American skyscrapers.

The independent nature of these simple folks, their unwillingness to be imposed upon or to be patronized calls to mind the story told about a people whose lives also run in a minor key—the Shetlanders. As an example of the self-satisfied and withal independent nature of the average Shetlander, the following remark made by an old isleman to a storm-stayed visitor from the South may be cited:

"You must find it terribly dull living in this out-of-the-way place," said the stranger, "seeing you cannot get your letters and papers when the weather is bad. Why, I don't suppose you know what we are doing in London from one week's end to the other!"

"That's true," was the reply, "but yir just as badly aff in London, for ye dinna ken what we're doin' in Shetlan'."

Obviously we cannot do our part in community service if we live marooned in an institution not in contact with the pulsing life of our day. We are citizens deputized by other citizens to administer a special service for public good. We must organize our full strength, keep our resources fluid and our libraries registered as intelligence bureaus to enterprises where creative work and practical skill construct some of the footings to which a civilization of human welfare must be anchored. The craftsman, the artist, the thinker are brothers and the enrichment of life will be the more substantial if these minds are joined in a fraternity of civilization.

The industrial era of our age has widened the front of our advance. While harkening to the new calls we should not forsake old loyalties. The full chapter of the Machine Age is still to be written. Like all revolutions it filled a need, it corrected a wrong. The drudgery of toil, the drabness of primitive human shelters were cast off like unlovely garments. Work began to have a new meaning, a new recognition, a man's way

of qualifying for social, economic and intellectual emancipation—the trademark of a wealthy nation.

We are emerging from a century in which science thru the genius of many taciturn men all over the world placed at the service of mankind the latent forces of nature, and equally ingenious minds multiplied the talents placed in their keeping. The British Association for the advancement of science meeting this year to celebrate its one hundredth anniversary, will also pay honor to the centenary of the great discovery by Michael Faraday, the obtaining of electricity from ordinary magnetism. Its bearing upon modern thought and modern life is well known to us all. We have received a rich inheritance from him and other masters of science. The technical details of their discoveries are beyond the understanding of most of us; their application for human comfort and power are within the experience of all. Indeed, the economic foundation on which the civilization of today rests is the gift of men of science who bequeath their findings to posterity.

Brilliant and amazing are the successes achieved at an accelerating speed within the wide domains of technique. Every difficulty is a challenge to new forces, new methods. Divers human needs have been met, a growing security against the daily struggle of old with unyielding nature has been achieved. Work has produced wealth, some of it flowing back into channels of industry while large amounts have been dedicated to human needs other than material ones. American men of wealth tend to be a group of cheerful givers, unostentatiously practicing the theory of certain Roman philosophers which allowed "the wise man to possess, even to seek riches, but only as a means for exercising social virtues such as generosity, magnificence and the like."

Having submitted this imperfect brief for the modern industrial era, should

not the honorable counsellor for the other side also be heard before a verdict is reached? To be sure, he will concede the value of concentrated energy and coöperative efforts but as part of his exhibit he will also point to symptoms indicative of a life exhausted in centrifugal motions! Mental efforts are directed to outside life—technology, world events, national and international economic competition. Nobody has time to nourish his *personal, inner* life. The rest period vibrates with nerves and overstimulation, a state of mental tension, demanding another spurt.

In this enervating craving for action and more action, the weary chase for "a good time," we repeatedly respond to the crack of the whip and surrender our heritage of manhood, our mental freedom, our right to a balanced individual life of thots and emotions, of memories and experiences, of yearnings and lofty ambition—the ingredients which are essential for poise and a personality. Our eyes are riveted on the untiring whirl of humans short-circuiting their power instead of preserving it.

The wonted dignity and calm of our libraries feel the reaction; we also are a part of an intricate machinery and have surrendered to a powerful collective will and demands, ever growing in numbers and insistence. We have joined forces with others in training intellect day after day to convey information and knowledge in order to keep the machines working and nature yielding its resources. Are we in danger of being industrialized? Certainly we occasionally stumble upon certain features that we have in common with industry. Laboratory devices are multiplied, daily working hours are reduced and yet there is a lamentable want of time, strength and seclusion to enrich our inner selves, to learn the art of husbanding our forces only to release them for the deeper satisfactions of life. Our social education

has succeeded in collecting and uniting our moral and spiritual forces in a community structure of law and order where all people have a deepening sense of solidarity. Reaching for the perfection of organization, we are in danger of forgetting the individual who, if he is to reach his full stature and adult growth, must be free to develop untrammelled by organization standards.

We librarians also are organized and classified; we have our departments, card catalogs and bureaus; our statistics are often our most solemn proclamations, tho they express nothing but the mechanics of our service. Our chapter in the history of popular education cannot be written merely in algebraic equations, our contributions to the spiritual emancipation of the individual call for careful auditing.

The danger of the Machine Age, the benumbing tempo of the lockstep are realized and various devices and agencies are functioning for stimulating mental development and public intelligence. The library has many competitors, our superiors in aggressiveness and ingenuity. Certain organs of print ceaselessly furnish machine-made opinions which, mechanically conveyed, are accepted by many who without time and desire to do their own thinking submit to this polite forced feeding. In the name of culture, men's minds are being knocked about by plausible, sententious speculations and appeals gently sent out on the wave length, the terminal letters of which may be identified with gullibility and conceit of individuals and groups.

If it be *our* part to assist in promoting sound public opinion based on orderly processes and tested truth, if we desire to be recognized for integrity of intellect and purpose, then, it behooves us to protect and guard the birthright of others, their right to honest goods from whosoever sets himself up as their mentor and counsellor. Not for us to be

field agents for the pretender, the hypocrite, peddling his shoddy wares in words of printed cant and platitudes. Be not impatient with the unlettered man, do not exalt the intellectual. Only those are servants of public good who thru personal effort without thot of gain serve their fellows well and, if occasion arises, thru a noble action. Those men are evil who distort truth, who perform sibilant lip service, who profiteer on simple minds, prejudice and false sentiment.

Those who intrude themselves upon the inner life of a man must come clean. Our high warrant for laboring in the vineyards of the so-called Adult Education must contain as a leading sentence the promotion of adult emancipation and intellectual freedom. Those attributes of manhood are the gangway to useful activity, to success and to rugged self-dependency.

He who takes flight or refuses to surrender his own judgment to conventional public opinion should, however, heed the truth that it is the analytical, investigating mind which triumphs against unbridled impulse and passion.

The main building of an old university in northern Europe bears this inscription, which greets the students as they enter:

Great is the thought that is free
Greater the thought that is right

In accommodating all those who come for printed sources of information of a theoretical and practical nature we are properly recognizing the life of today. If we are also spreading our wares to those who are interested in human emotions and the aesthetics of life, we are honoring those interpreters of events and peoples who with their artistry and fancy present a deeper and truer understanding of life than reality itself.

In making a plea for such library service we have no sympathy with the individual who substitutes reading for thinking or retires from his fellows in

gloomy self-introspection. Too much reading, even educational, may be as stupefying and enslaving as the treadmill rounds of brute labor. One-sided intellectualism travels on the lonely trails of the arid, unfrequented regions. Books and reading should lead to the highway of freedom, alertness and usefulness.

National culture, the development of a race, will not attain its fulfillment if the recreational needs of the individual are neglected, if tactfulness, graciousness, fine taste and other manifestations of good breeding are absent. The colorful stratifications of Adult Education contain the elements of a spontaneous, sound joy of life, sensitiveness to beauty, good will and responsiveness to our fellows.

I like to deal with him who is not helpless and low-spirited when deprived of upholstered leather chairs and the beseeching appeals of the radio. I am for the man who has the courage to live his own life, whose wings are strong in mist and sunshine, whose zest of life has no hectic tempo—such a man makes a good companion and is a power in social education. Virility, steadiness in the hour of decision, sturdy humanity, the love of one's mother tongue enter into the structure of all national culture. The *abundant* life is achieved thru the balanced intelligent enjoyment of one's physical and mental self and the sharing of the happy hours with others.

Books like *The story of San Michele*, *Giants in the earth*, *Death comes for the archbishop*, *Lambs in March*, the racy flavor of native humor as rendered by Mark Twain, the suppressed yet exquisitely fluent idealism of Galsworthy sound the depths of human sympathy and good will. They are a testament of noble sentiments from those who with deep affection have lived very close to the heart of nature and life. If education means understanding, then we serve faithfully in placing such printed messages in the hands of our fellows. There

may still be voices from down in the pit speaking in praise of increased per capita book circulation—they are but droning words from the accounting department where the sun never shines.

A good book touching the mystery as whispered in the silent woods or giving us the jubilant notes heard under the open sky carries us toward the

heights as do music and song. If it comes our way in our daily service to introduce to others such melodies of the delicately attuned and inspired human mind, then we experience a reward more precious than rubies—we have had a share in the making of a *life*, and not merely advised as to how to make a *living*.

Cataloging from a Reference Viewpoint

Grace Walker, head cataloger, Public library, Evansville, Indiana

(Concluded)

(In the June number of *LIBRARIES* Miss Walker, who served for several years as a reference librarian and forsook it for cataloging work, writes of how each department owes its existence to the other and depends on the efforts of the other for mutual benefit and aid. The article is well worth reading.—*Editor*)

Why is cataloging so complex? we ask. Because printed material and books are complex. If men never used initials only, or variations of initials; if women never married, or at least God forbid that they marry more than three times; if no one used pseudonyms, surely not more than two or three; if new editions were not published; and reprints and separates were forbidden; if public documents were regulationized—then cataloging might be a simple matter. It becomes our duty and also our pleasure to unify entries with as much common sense as we can command so that other departments can trust the catalog to furnish them with reliable information. We wish to make it an instrument of good, and delight to see how much we can accomplish in the process of simplification.

To do this we need practical and workable rules, sane and sensible methods, and only by coöperation with reference and loan desk demands can this be satis-

factorily done. Our round-about and unnecessary way of doing things is well illustrated by the story of the old philosopher who had as pets a mother cat and four kittens. He painstakingly cut two holes in the wall of his study, a large one by which the mother cat could come and go and a smaller one for the use of the kittens! We are guilty of the same error and often make work for ourselves by providing two holes when one is sufficient. The time mooted question of how much should be included on cards still comes up for debate. An attempt is made to save time and cost, since money spent in cataloging seems more expensive and less visible in direct returns than money spent in other ways in library work. Undoubtedly it *takes* time to verify and include bibliographical details—imprint information, collation statistics, series entries and notes. Short form cataloging is advocated, with a plea that only the most vital entries be made, that all superfluous detail be weeded out, and all supplementary material eliminated. But how can we always tell what is unimportant, what is unnecessary, what should be omitted? For what seems superfluous may be the one item that is sought. Do we dare always trust our own judgment or venture to make a drastic decision for short form when the desk assistant and her

public need to know as much as possible about each entry? We must not lose sight of the fact that *one* cataloger *only* uses the time, taking half an hour or an hour to check correct entries and to record such details on a card. The time of the reference librarian is saved many times over, as also is the time of several patrons many of whom wish varying bits of information regarding the book. The question "Is full entry worth the time put on it?" seems to answer itself, since time spent by one department is counterbalanced by time saved in another. We covet the feeling that at such times and for such minuteness of detail our reference librarians will rise up and call us blessed.

Rules for entries should be specific and definite, form and choice of headings should not be left to the whim of the individual cataloger. The clever parody on "Codes," written for the Wisconsin library school May Day breakfast, may or may not be good advice with its ending:

But the codes that leave it to our judgement

Are the codes that appeal to me.

For practical purposes of entry we should ask, What does the reference librarian need in her work? Bibliographies should always be brought out, for they point the way to further research. Analytics for short stories and plays, especially in collections, are valuable; otherwise the titles are often lost. Contents are necessary, for a story is called for with a certain man mentioned as the supposed author. If the contents are not given and the book is not on the shelf, the librarian has no further clue and the search ends in baffling disappointment. It is not necessary to put contents on *all* cards if a reference is made to the card on which complete contents are listed. The matter of continuations and serials with "to date" entries is a vexing thing to the reference assistant. So confidently does the card assure

a full and up-to-date file of serials and so pleasing is the information that the disappointment is doubly hard when after a long and tedious search the shelves bring to light a publication two years old, while the shelf card or check list shows that the issue for the last year has been received and cataloged and is somewhere on its slow way to the shelves. With a "to date" entry no assurance can be given of the last number received and verification is made necessary thru other records. It *does* take time to draw cards for volume entries—is it worth cataloging time for the benefit of the reference department? Title cards are important, for human nature remembers a title in preference to an author's name. And how these titles are mistreated—garbled and twisted! The psychologist is correct when he says our day is a day of inversion, for we find even Friend Public reverting to inversion in his request for titles! Subject headings can only be touched upon here. The most specific heading is desirable, an actual wording of the subject matter, when possible. Otherwise many cards must be fingered in order to discover, alas, only two books on the specific topic. Cross references should be freely used, for subjects are asked for by catchwords and by popular phrases, and there should be cards referring from all possible variations of the heading. The *Readers' Guide* uses one heading, L. C. another, and the catalog, patterned after A. L. A. rules, still another. These should be correlated. Many guide cards are needed in a well arranged catalog and save time for all users. Simplify headings as much as is compatible with clearness. In a small library the long and complicated headings of L. C. are surely out of place, and judgment is necessary to select with common sense some of those presented for our use. Send reference books along quickly. Nothing disturbs the serene poise of a reference librarian more than

to see a pet book in a new edition or a current issue of a much needed serial standing unnoticed on the cataloger's shelves.

If items and headings in the catalog are obsolete and out of date, if changes are advisable, why not change or remedy the evil immediately, even tho the policy of the catalog must be somewhat altered? Because custom and tradition define certain usage is no reason for the continuation of the process if the new method is better. The desk assistant is often in a position to make valuable suggestions for new headings or changes in old ones because she detects discrepancies and weaknesses in the catalog, and frequent consultation with her is well worth while in providing new working principles. By keeping in close touch with each other, the catalog and the reference departments combined should help to keep the library up to the highest point of efficiency; for one keeps her finger on the demands and needs of the public while the other supplies the material to satisfy that need and demand. Only by intensive and harmonious coöperation of the

two departments can the wheels of library machinery run smoothly and carry the library on to real service in the diffusion of knowledge.

If anyone still cherishes the thot that library work is a nice place for a lover of books to sit and enjoy them, to browse and relax among them, let him join the cataloging forces of a public library. He will be disillusioned, for there is no rest nor relaxation there. Nor does anyone want rest. We are workers, full of zeal and enthusiasm for our work, busily using hands and eyes and brains and intellect in the solving of our complex problems, alive to the possibilities of our task. We know our labor is not wasted, nor do we consider it drudgery, but a vital service to the book-loving and book-needing world. We are justifiably proud of our good catalogs, which we recognize as a means to an end and a necessary and valuable tool for all our co-laborers. Let us in this publicity age take to advertising our wares. Let us shout the importance of our work from the housetops, and in justification of our shouting strive to become bigger and better catalogers!

Letters—Information and Discussion

More Light for Charging and Reference Desks

Editor, LIBRARIES:

When will library architects begin giving us charging or reference desks with good bright light *behind* the worker and some solid and restful dimness in front? In dozens of the newest libraries the worker faces a fierce glare from door or windows while behind, or above, where the light is needed, a perpetual twilight broods.

Pictures of the Esbjerg, Denmark, circulating department desk show one of the very few desks arranged with any consideration for the human eye, and in accord with common sense—poor Cinderella of library architecture.

Architects would get much light on problems of this order, or the things no one seems to think of, if they took an intensive course of work at various public library desks thruout the country before beginning on their blue-prints, on the principle of the toad beneath the harrow knows.

ELIZABETH CARTER

Public library
Jacksonville, Florida

Summer courses in library science in 1931 will be offered in 34 states, the District of Columbia, and the Province of Quebec.

A Preventive Against Book Mutilation

Editor, LIBRARIES:

We felt that you might be interested to know that a rule has been issued by the Board of education in Montclair to the effect:

"No notebooks with book and magazine illustrations and clippings will be accepted by teachers beginning next September."

This rule grows out of the fact that so much damage has been done to books and magazines of the library, and we hope that it will be widely adopted thruout the country.

RUTH P. TUBBY

Public library
Montclair, New Jersey

Library Terms

Editor of LIBRARIES:

Your editorial comment on library terms in the June number of LIBRARIES interests me. The Certification committee of the California library association has been asked to submit a report on personnel terminology at the next annual meeting. The Committee devoted part of an afternoon recently to a discussion of this question with Fred Telford. His suggestion seemed to us such an obvious and logical solution that we wondered why we had not adopted it long ago. It is that all library workers of professional rank should be called "librarians" and that the term "assistant" should be discarded entirely. "Proposed classification and compensation plans for library positions" could be made to conform to this with little change except the substitution of "librarian" for "assistant" wherever a professional position is concerned. Mr. Telford believes that this change should be made and gave as a parallel the terminology used by engineers.

It seems to me there are several good reasons for this and no really valid ones against it. The title "librarian" as an

indication of education, technical training or experience is one which all who are entitled to it by right of these qualifications should be privileged to bear officially in the institutions in which they work. As you say in your editorial, the public assumes it and is confused by our habit of applying the term only to the head of the institution. Any interest we may have in establishing the professional status of librarianship in the minds of our clientele is not furthered by calling all but a very small proportion of the people in the profession "assistants" or "attendants."

The use of "librarian" as a term designating all professional members of a library staff would have the further advantage of allowing a distinctive terminology for sub-professional workers. It seems very much clearer to me to distinguish between professional and sub-professional positions by the terms "librarian" and "library aid" than to use "senior library assistant" and "junior library assistant." The latter term is particularly confusing since it is used in some libraries to indicate the lowest grade of professional positions and in others to designate sub-professional members of the staff.

Isn't it time we discarded the idea that only the head of a library can be "librarian"? There does not seem to be any logical reason for it. As "head librarian" of an institution which employs some 40 "librarians" I am more than glad to share the honor of the professional title with them and I expect to make the terminology official by using it in our next classification and salary ordinance. The California state library has just revised the terminology of their personnel classification to conform to it and we are hoping that other California libraries will follow.

MRS. T. R. BREWITT, Chairman
Certification committee of the
California library association

Libraries Make Rapid Growth

A report recently issued by the United States Bureau of education states that about 700 miles of bookshelves have been added since 1923 in the 10,938 public, society and school libraries in the United States having 3,000 volumes or more. These 700 miles of shelving have been built to accommodate the 33,500,000 books which have been added to the libraries.

Newbery Medal Award for 1930

As the author of the most distinguished contribution to children's literature during the past year, Elizabeth Coatsworth received the Newbery medal award for her book, *The cat who went to heaven*. The medal was presented to the winner by Mary Gould Davis, chairman of the section for Library work with children of the American Library Association, at a meeting of the section at Yale University June 23.

Miss Coatsworth has written several other books for children, as well as three volumes of adult poetry. She was born in Buffalo, graduated from Vassar, and two years ago married Henry Beston, the naturalist and writer. Known as an indefatigable traveler, Miss Coatsworth has been a leisurely visitor to England, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Morocco, Mexico and the Orient. The cat who went to heaven is the story of an artist in Japan.

New York State Library Association Awards

The New York state library association for some years has been distributing scholarship prizes for fine quality of work done at the Week Long Institutes. The prize this year—a summer course at one of the library schools of New York state—was awarded to Evelyn Bellak, Saranac Lake free library.

In addition, five awards—expenses to the annual meeting—were distributed to the following librarians who with limited incomes had best served their communities: May Carpenter, Cambridge public library; Elizabeth R. Hixson, Cuba circulating library association; Mrs. Bertha Knowlton, Annie Porter Ainsworth Memorial library, Sandy Creek; Mrs. Cora Jacquay, Chaumont free library; Irene Muller, Williamson public library.

The plan of award has been changed somewhat in order to establish a more consistent method, and the following recommendations are made for future awards: 1) that permanent scholarships be established at the leading library schools in New York state (short courses, summer sessions); 2) that a separate committee be appointed to study the plan and make recommendations; 3) that formal application be made for all scholarships; 4) that the scholarship committee be primarily a committee of awards.

Syracuse Library's Industrial Department

Plans have been formulated for organization of an industrial department in the Public library, Syracuse, New York. A committee of three men will work with members of the library staff in the selection of books suitable for study by mechanics, printers, men in the automobile industry, engineers and scientific men.

Thru a clerical error in the June issue of *LIBRARIES*, it was stated that at a sectional meeting of the Philadelphia school librarians "Mr. C. C. Certain and the president of the association made delightful informal addresses." We wish to state that the superintendent of schools and Mr. Certain made delightful informal addresses and that the president spoke.

Some Available Material

The following material (all bound) may be had from the Public library, Fulton, Illinois, by any library willing to pay the expense of transportation and handling:

Congressional records: 1909-1910, 1917-1919
War Department annual reports: 1909-1920
Navy year book: 1910-1921
Statistical abstract of the United States: 1917-1922

U. S. Civil Service Examination

The United States Civil Service commission will announce within a few weeks a competitive examination for junior librarians (penal and correctional institutions) to fill several vacancies in the Federal penal system.

Only one position in the system is available to women and no immediate vacancy is foreseen, however, women contestants who would like to be considered for future vacancies are requested to make application.

Full information may be obtained from the secretary of the U. S. Civil Service Board of examiners at the post office or customs house in any city, or from the U. S. Civil Service commission, Washington, D. C.

Increased State Appropriations

Increased appropriations this year for state library extension work were shown in 15 states: Arkansas, California, Delaware, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The agencies in Illinois, Minnesota, New York and Vermont held their own, while Indiana and Washington reported decreases. Three new library extension agencies—Montana, South Carolina and West Virginia—failed to secure first appropriations. In a number of states appropriations are still pending.

Library Legislation

The Florida legislature has recently enacted a county library law, which awaits the Governor's signature. Georgia, Idaho, North Dakota and Washington are the only states (outside of New England) now without county library laws. Michigan has enacted a regional library law—the first state to pass such legislation. Ohio and Michigan passed amendments to their county laws. County amendments in Iowa failed.

State aid for county libraries passed the Pennsylvania legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. Both New York and Illinois failed to pass their state aid bills in spite of well organized effort.

Proposals to abolish the state library commissions or transfer them to other departments failed in Nebraska and Oklahoma. Reorganization which may affect the Wisconsin state library commission is still pending. A bill to establish a state library commission is pending in Alabama.

Celebration of George Washington's Birthday

It is planned that the observance of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington in 1932 is to be participated in by every state, city, and town in the United States, and by many other nations.

The George Washington Bicentennial commission is actively at work spreading information, soliciting cooperation, distributing printed material, and in other ways inviting general interest in the observance of the occasion. The Commission is located in the Washington Building, Washington, D. C., and will send literature, etc., to any committee, organization, or group that will write to them. The celebration will last from Washington's birthday, February 22, 1932, to Thanksgiving day, November 24, 1932.

Monthly—Except August
and September

Libraries

216 W. Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois

Mary Eileen Ahern, Editor

Subscription - - - - - \$3 a year
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When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of *LIBRARIES* should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

The New Haven Meeting

THE yearly A. L. A. meeting held at New Haven was different from its predecessor in many ways. The dormitory idea was carried out to perfection due to the tireless efforts of Mr. F. B. Johnson who had been for many years familiar with A. L. A. meetings. The Taft Hotel is not large but it certainly has a staff worthy of the name of the kindly, courteous, good-humored president whom everyone loved, even tho everybody did not agree with his ideas.

As was to be expected the *Attendance Register* "recorded the largest attendance yet counted," altho there were many who did not wear the badge. The majority of the members came from the Atlantic Coast reaching as far south as the Carolinas, with a goodly number from the South. The indefatigable golfer from Seattle was there with his clubs. The eloquent member of the Los Angeles library board and chairman of the Trustees' section, was genially greeting the many friends he made last year thru

the generous hospitality shown at the Los Angeles meeting.

There were abundant meeting places for all sections, round tables and groups, tho one could hardly grow enthusiastic over the acoustic properties of some of the rooms. The ample spaces at New Haven had their drawbacks in that there was no common meeting place and one caught a glimpse of one's friends today but not tomorrow—if indeed they ever came together again during the convention.

New Haven is in the center of hundreds of small libraries and in the region of the cheapest taxi fares that convention members have ever enjoyed. The attractive resorts and playgrounds, the desirable excursions and interesting historical points of the New Haven region up and down the coast lured many to spend time and money (?) at the close of the meetings. New Haven is a beautiful place naturally and the trees and foliage are still chief attractions, but the

enormous piles of stone, mortar, cement and brick are encroaching on the face of the earth there as elsewhere. There are those who wonder if this new environment will give as valuable ideals to the history of Yale, New England, United States and the world as did the simpler life of the former days to those who thronged the halls of *old Eli*.

The Sterling library, of course, is the last word in university library buildings. Doubtless as the years add tradition and color to its work and walls, it will be a

beautiful memory for those who were fortunate enough to see it thrown open for the first time to the hundreds of librarians who visited its halls every day during the convention, despite any program that might be offered anywhere else.

It was a disappointment to many that President Angell was obliged to be away, and a deep sense of shock and regret swept over the convention at the news of the tragic death of his wife during the week.

Concerning the A. L. A. Bulletin

BY the time this number of *LIBRARIES* will have been distributed, the vote in regard to the "enlarged" *A. L. A. Bulletin* will have been cast. It is highly probable at this writing that the decision to change the form of the *Bulletin* has already been decided affirmatively by those concerned in the matter at A. L. A. Headquarters, having full faith thru former experience in the readiness of the membership to furnish the "sinews of war."

It may be said without undue criticism that the question has been treated for the most part in a fashion which seems to have had no bottom to it, no substantial foundation on which a reasonable argument could be erected. And tho it seems a futile thing to discuss the question at this time, or in any fashion, one may comment on it casually. Some discussion relating to the matter has been in progress since the first of the year, and in the last months definite proposals have come out of it.

In the multitudinous affairs which have occupied the attention and the means of A. L. A. Headquarters in these later years, the preparation and distribu-

tion of printed matter, aside from the *Booklist*, have not at any time been remarkable for effectiveness, nor does there seem to have been any definite aim for a publication of anything more than a convenient medium thru which might be given limited opinions on proposals for action, reports of committees, or announcements to the membership of what seemed expedient to give out. But is this not the legitimate field for a bulletin anyway? The *Bulletin* does not seem to have, or to have had, much of an appeal, specially to those responsible for it. No one will disagree that improvement could be made and no one has been heard to say that it was not needed, but it is well to remember however that "art is difficult, criticism easy."

It is understood that only two persons have ever been employed in the preparation and promulgation of the *Bulletin*, and, in addition, the arduous task of publishing the *Bulletin* has been hindered by slowness in sending in material, meeting printing dates, or lack of coöperation with editorial needs. Considering all the handicaps, hindrances and drawbacks, there is not much to

complain of. Again, it is well to remember "art is difficult, criticism easy."

A bulletin is a short, official statement of progress. In its present form the *A. L. A. Bulletin's* interest and appeal to the membership will depend entirely on how much and in what degree the interest of the membership is centered on the activities of the American Library Association. It is not unfair to say that this interest is somewhat superficial on the part of a majority of the 13,000 members of which we hear. How could it be otherwise? All of them are busy people, and the enrollment of this large number the result of a campaign. While in the long run such a membership will undoubtedly be valuable not only to the membership itself but to the public activities of the organization to know more about what is going on officially at this time, to deluge this undigested member-

ship with more to read is in its present degree of absorption into the body not calculated to arouse their interest in more printed matter which seems to be the thing that is desired by the committee and those directing it. If the membership really wants more "library literature" and information about things than they are receiving at the present time, they should get it. Do they want this information?

The motive of the secular press could be worked to a good advantage here. Every newspaper declares that it gives the people what they want, and are not specially concerned with giving them what it thinks is good for them. The reverse of that policy is not a very happy way of bringing about solidarity of interest in such a heterogeneous membership as is on the roster of the American Library Association.

College Graduation Versus Selection for Entrance Into Library Schools

THE requirements for entrance into all professions having been advanced in the last few years, the library profession has also kept pace and it should do so. But sometimes it seems that a college degree plus selection by examination for entrance into a library school would work out to better advantage from a professional standpoint than the present requirement of *just a degree*.

There are those of us who have served long enough in the profession to remember the intellectual as well as intelligent librarian who without a college degree but because of an informal education along cultural lines was well fitted for her position. The requirement for her admission into the library school was

a good stiff examination plus the personal interview which carried a great deal of weight in those days. If she had a college degree so much the better, but that alone, with few exceptions, was not the only requirement which fitted her to become a librarian.

One cannot but notice the contrast upon interviewing some of the college and library school graduates who seek library positions and are recommended for them by their school. The librarian who employs such applicants is not only required very often to do tutoring along reference or cataloging lines, but has found it necessary to suggest methods of personal hygiene to such a new member of her staff.

Perhaps we are too critical. But it has been said that the college education of today is of the same value as was that of a city of the first class high school 20 years ago. Why not then a college de-

gree plus examination, plus a personal interview to see whether one is particularly fitted for library work, or for entrance into the library school?

M.

Budget Reduction

MORE and more we read of library budgets being cut which curtails the work of an institution that is filling a much needed place in these times of depression. Some boards in the smaller cities have even gone so far as to close their libraries; some larger ones have had to reduce the salaries of the staff due to reduction of their budget; and still others have been forced to ask employees to take leaves of absence without pay.

One needs but step into the reading room of any public library these days, whether it be large or small, to find a concrete example of the service being rendered to unemployed men especially.

The library is the one institution which seems to have plenty of business. The contrast between stepping into a business concern at the present time and into that of a public library and observing the business, so to speak, being carried on in both places, is so marked that no one could fail to notice it.

More reading and less spending for pleasure and amusements is shown by the increase in library statistics for the past year.

It should be a satisfaction to librarians to realize that in times of material breakdown of the individual they can contribute to his spiritual and cultural development.

M.

Death's Toll

Mrs. Harriet S. Taylor, for 35 years custodian of the genealogy department of the Newberry library, Chicago, died June 21 at the age of 75. Mrs. Taylor was well known thruout the country and especially to many of Chicago's most prominent families whose genealogies she traced. Her research skill was in demand particularly by women seeking admission to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Edna C. Adams, for 29 years assistant in the reference division of the Wisconsin State Historical library, Madison, died on May 23.

Retirement of Laura Smith of Cincinnati

Laura Smith retired on June 1 from her position as head of the catalog department of the Cincinnati public library where she has served for over 30 years. Miss Smith joined the library staff when the library began its progressive activities many years ago, and has been the right hand in its developments until now. She was actually assistant librarian during the time of Mr. Hodges' occupancy, but was not accorded the title because of her sex.

Miss Smith and her sister, who has also retired from educational work, are developing a new home which they have

acquired in the suburbs of Cincinnati with pleasant anticipation of many happy years there.

In her last days in the library, Miss Smith was made the recipient of many tokens of regard and esteem on the part of the staff. At a luncheon given in her honor on May 23, her immediate staff presented her with a handsome pewter coffee service; and at a tea given by the entire staff on May 28, she was presented with a beautiful lamp. On May 30 the cataloging department accepted Miss Smith's invitation to spend the day at her country home where her charming hospitality banished any sadness that might have occurred at the final break of the ties.

Resignation of William F. Yust

William F. Yust, librarian of the Public library, Rochester, New York, has resigned his position, to take effect January 1, 1932.

Mr. Yust has been engaged in library work for 35 years; 20 years of this time in Rochester. His other appointments were in the University of Chicago library, public libraries division of the New York state education department, and the Public library, Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Yust was librarian in Louisville for seven years. He left that position to go to Rochester where he was officially installed as librarian in April, 1912, and has since filled that position with rare ability and distinction.

Celebration of Pearl Field's Twenty-fifth Anniversary

Staff members of the Henry E. Legler branch library, Chicago, held open house June 12 to pay tribute to Pearl I. Field who was celebrating her twenty-fifth anniversary in the service of the Chicago public library. Miss Field has been librarian of the Legler branch since its opening in October, 1929.

The Legler branch library was the first regional branch erected in accordance with the plan of the late Mr. Legler, former librarian. It was up to Miss Field, appointed directing librarian upon its opening, to establish the success of this branch which was to have a floating collection of books sufficient to meet the demands upon all the west side branches, schools and other library agencies on the west side.

Miss Field's work made a certainty of the regional plan. Today the Legler library is the largest branch library in the United States.

Librarians Honored

Two of the three branch libraries to be erected this summer by the Public library, Hammond, Indiana, are to be named for librarians who served the institution faithfully and efficiently for years. The librarians honored are Mrs. Marie Easter, who had been the first librarian back in 1903 but returned as head of the circulation department 12 years ago; and Mrs. Jeanie Sawyer, second librarian, who served from 1906 to 1924.

New Library Building at Columbia University

Plans are well under way for the construction in the immediate future of a new library building at Columbia University, made possible by a recent pledge from Edward S. Harkness of New York City.

The new building has been designed by James Gamble Rogers. It will be five stories in height, 260 feet wide, and 170 feet deep. The bookstacks (150 by 80 feet) will be constructed in 15 tiers, with a capacity of approximately 3,000,000 volumes. Future extension will afford capacity for another million volumes.

The basement will provide for a branch of the New York public library,

lecture room, and accessioning and binding departments. On the first floor will be a complete library for Columbia College, including reading, reference, and seminar rooms. The second floor will contain catalog and periodical departments, and the main reading room with a capacity for 360 readers. The third floor will be divided into 14 large reading rooms for graduate students, while the fourth and fifth floors will be occupied by the school of library service.

When the new library is completed it will absorb the various departmental libraries scattered thruout the University, thus becoming the principal center for the general reader and research student. The present library will be retained for rare books and manuscripts and other important special collections.

Anniversary Celebration of New York Public Library

The twentieth anniversary of the opening of the central building of the New York public library was celebrated by the staff association on May 22. The main exhibit room was transformed for the occasion into a reception room where officers of the library and staff association greeted several hundred members of the association, librarians formerly on the staff, and friends of the library. The white marble walls were a background for a profusion of flowers from the gardens of generous members of the staff.

The central place in the exhibit of early pictures was given to one of the library buildings in 1911, surmounted by a portrait of the first director, Dr. J. S. Billings. Around the walls were other pictures showing the development of the neighborhood from the time of the reservoir to the present region of skyscrapers. Staff pictures of 20 years ago were brought from the archives and arranged by Miss Javitz and the staff of the picture collection.

After a brief talk by Dr. Bloch, the meeting was turned over to Miss Leavitt who had charge of arrangements. She introduced Mr. Anderson who talked about his predecessor, Dr. Billings; Mr. Lydenberg who recalled the part played by three presidents, Mr. Bigelow, Mr. Rives, and Mr. Cadwalader, in the development of the library, as well as some of his own early experiences in the Lenox library; Mr. Hopper and Mr. Metcalf who talked of the growth of the circulation and the reference departments; Mr. Moth who read his reminiscences of days in the Astor library; and Anne Carroll Moore who recalled the planning of the children's room.

To many of those present whose association with the library has come within the 20 year period, the central building gained an added lustre from these accounts of its opening and the honorable traditions from which it sprang.

After the official closing of the building at ten o'clock, the real party began. Refreshments were served, special emblems were pinned on staff members who had served 20 years or more, and pleasant converse filled the next hour.

The Kremlin Art Quintette gave a magnificent conclusion to the evening's entertainment.

Miss Leavitt and her committee received congratulations upon an occasion charged with unusual warmth, gayety, and friendliness.

Rutgers Gets Rare Atlas

Rutgers University library, New Brunswick, New Jersey, has received one of the six existing hand-colored photographic reproductions of the entire original vellum manuscript of the Geography of Claudius Ptolemy, the gift of Dr. Edward S. Stevenson, editor of the Hispanic society of America. The original manuscript atlas is now in the *Biblioteca Saurentia Medico* at Florence, Italy.

New Home for Lake Forest Public Library

The formal opening of the new home of the Public library, Lake Forest, Illinois, was held on June 7. The building is a handsome structure of imported Holland brick with buff Bedford stone trim and is in a modernized Georgian style. The delivery room will later be decorated with a series of 12 mural paintings by Nicholas Remisoff, representing the great poets and prose writers of antiquity.

Unusual features are the two walled gardens to the south of the library which will serve as outdoor reading rooms in the summer.

The library is the gift to the city by Mrs. Charles H. Schweppe and Mrs. Kersey Coates Reed, the daughters of the late John G. Shedd who gave the Shedd Aquarium to Chicago, and is erected in memory of Kersey Coates Reed.

Chicago Public Library Faces Serious Situation

"The income of the Chicago public library has been so seriously reduced by the failure of current tax collections that the board of directors has been forced to restrict all expenditures to the absolute minimum. The purchase of new books has, therefore, been discontinued for the present by order of the board."

It is hoped that the coming famine of new books at the library and branches will result in increased reading of better old books.

Those affected most by this announcement will be a certain part of the adult public who wants the latest thing. The juvenile readers will be satisfied with the older things. Those who will be most seriously affected are persons who are trying to keep up with fast-changing international or domestic affairs and with fast developing sciences and industries. They should have new books.

California's Parnassus on Wheels

Driving in California thru the little town of Point Reyes one may see from the highway a railroad coach in the center of a field quite a distance from the tracks. The fresh green paint shines brightly in the sun and orange curtains seem to beckon one closer. Across the side of the car in large letters is painted "Marin County free library—Point Reyes branch."

There is a steady stream of happy looking people going in and out. Some are carrying huge armfuls of books and one can easily imagine what it means to people so far away from large cities to be able to enjoy the privileges that a library affords.

On the inside of the car some of the original seats have been removed, affording room for reading tables to be placed between them. Stacks filled with adult books bound in bright colors are the first thing that one sees on entering as they are directly in line with the door of the car. The juvenile books are in a large stack to the right of the adult books. On a low book shelf in reach of tiny hands are the large picture books loved by the little ones.

This library car, which was a gift from a railroad company, fills a long felt need in this community. So much did these people want their library that for two days their services needed in moving the car from the railroad tracks to its new location were given freely. The local school is directly across the road and all the children are constant patrons. Already the library is an information bureau. Farmers and dairy-men come in every day to ask the custodian to secure for them the latest farm pamphlets or technical books dealing with their particular industry.

PATRICIA M. WALSH

Marin County free library
San Rafael, California

English Speaking Readers in the Foreign Literature Division, Cleveland Public Library

Edith Wirt, head of the division

One aspect of the work in the foreign literature division of a public library rarely considered is its service to the English speaking public. This is becoming increasingly important as newly arrived immigrants grow fewer in number, and as Americans become more internationally-minded.

Up to very recent years in Cleveland our French, Spanish, German, and, to some extent, Italian books were read by a limited group of Americans, including the cultured and much traveled American, and by students and teachers of foreign languages and literatures. Languages other than those mentioned were rarely studied by this group. Today the scope of languages studied has been so extended that it includes all the 30 languages in which we have books. In very recent days Russian has taken its place with French, German, Italian, and Spanish as one of the languages most studied by Americans. At the present time it is not only the leisure class and academic circles which take up the study of foreign languages and literatures, but also a large new public which consists of people belonging to all strata of society and walks of life—busy housewives, business men, skilled and unskilled workmen, clerks, and unemployed.

The character of the reading, too, has changed! There are many students, teachers, and even people belonging to non-academic professions who are working for M. A. and Ph. D. degrees in foreign literatures and philology. There is a marked interest in contemporary foreign literature. The librarian is, for example, often asked to make out a list of the latest and best French novels of the year for a college class. Standard works continue to hold their own as well. Two of the classes most consulted are

literary criticism and biographies of authors, old and new. There is a steady demand for books about Molière, Racine, Corneille, Proust, Rolland, and Gide; Goethe, Schiller, Heine, Hauptmann, Mann and Werfel; Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Calderon, Benavente, Blasco Ibáñez, and Martínez Sierra.

The many foreign language classes formed in recent years in night schools, night colleges, and women's clubs have helped augment the size of the English speaking public which now comes to the Foreign Literature division. There are also individuals who believe that it is not enough to be taught a foreign language, but that one must learn it. Such a student is the mother of four children who has not only learned Spanish by herself with the aid of our library books, but has also covered a wide range of reading in that language in the brief moments of respite from her household duties. A few others of our many "self-educated" in foreign languages and literatures are a typographer, an attorney, a drugstore clerk, an engineer, a physician, a sailor, and a stone-mason.

The Foreign Literature division is equipped to tell inquirers where or with whom they may study anything from Arabic to Swedish. A not infrequent request is for a teacher of Italian, German, and French for singers. We have a file of teachers who leave their names and addresses for purposes such as these. Recently when an out-of-town banker, in Cleveland for a week's convention, requested that we find him a teacher, native French and located near his hotel, a glance into our files produced one answering both qualifications.

Almost any morning we are greeted over the telephone by some such question as this: "I just got a cable from South America. I think it's in Spanish; can you tell me what it is about?" or, "What is the meaning of the foreign word, *Ueber-mangansaures Kali*?" Each year

the Foreign Literature division helps translate, or refers to professional translators, thousands of business letters from all over the world, in scores of languages on a great variety of subjects, most of them bearing upon the out-put of Cleveland industries. The material translated for individuals has ranged from cables concerning the repair of a surgical knife to power of attorney and permission for the adoption of a child. Many requests are referred to professional translators; stores, banks and factories calling on us for the names of those qualified. Often the request is for translators who have also had engineering training.

Numerous too, are requests from organizations such as the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies and the various consulates. On one occasion a program note was written for the Cleveland Orchestra giving the story of Krein's "The rose and the cross," no translation from the Russian being available. One member of the staff also translated an entire Czech play, which was produced by the Cleveland Playhouse.

There are other things for which the American calls upon the Foreign Literature division. The troubles of a restaurant owner, whose discharged cook had gone off with the recipes which made his restaurant famous, were alleviated by recipes found in our German cook books. Our ingenuity is forced into play when we are called upon to give a euphonious foreign name to a new brand of paint, a new method of marcel waving, a new effervescent drink, or a new piece of jazz music.

We are often consulted about foreign plays suitable for production in English, about the method of portrayal of certain roles on the European stage and about program notes for plays and concerts. Many a well-to-do American, who buys his own books written in English, depends upon the library for his foreign

books. Very often he asks where he can buy them. It is thru the American reader, as well as thru the foreign-born reader, that foreign books contribute to the enrichment of American life and literature.

Cataloging Plus¹

Katherine Howard Rock, librarian, Public library, Greenville, Pennsylvania

The librarian of the small library has an unusual opportunity to render "service plus," serving as she usually must in all capacities, and knowing personally the majority of her patrons. Her most important function in giving service is to interpret her book collection thru a catalog which will answer all needs of all people. To do "cataloging plus" amid a continuous round of other duties becomes for her a serious problem, and necessitates applying a strict measuring stick to all activities.

The primary decisions of cataloging must be made with time-saving in view—the adopting of alternatives for the accession book, the use or omission of Cutter numbers, what cards to make and which items to include thereon, the choice of a code of catalog rules and a list of subject headings, and the matter of using Library of Congress cards.

Decisions and plans must be carried into action by means of a thotful organization of the cataloging work. In this routine there are essentially some things which the librarian, as trained cataloger, must do, and others which the clerical, untrained assistant can handle satisfactorily. Once the librarian has typed the author or key card, indicating headings and analytics, and planning cross references, the assistant can practically always be taught how to type the remaining cards, as well as to alphabet and file them. She also can handle added copies, new

¹ Resumé of talk at Catalog section for small libraries, A. L. A. conference, New Haven, June 24.

editions, and continuations, make note of losses, withdrawals, and replacements, and in some cases can be entrusted with the entire cataloging of easy books. To the librarian falls the task of all revision work.

To produce best results a definite time schedule is essential. Altho sometimes difficult to carry thru in the small library a detailed outline of the week's work, setting aside a definite number of days each week or hours each day for cataloging, with variation in hours and assistants to relieve fatigue, will accomplish much. Such a schedule is particularly helpful when it is necessary to "put thru" a large quantity of books within a short time.

In the small library with its numerous untrained assistants staff meetings are invaluable. An occasional meeting devoted to cataloging problems, such as filing difficulties, new headings used, criticisms of the catalog by the public, and loopholes discovered in it will be helpful in coordinating all work.

"Cataloging plus" may mean doing only the essentials of cataloging and doing them to the very best of our ability. In another sense, too, we may adopt in our catalog certain "frills" and "time-savers" which increase its usefulness and attractiveness. Miscellaneous material is made more useful by being cataloged carefully, using a different colored card to distinguish between the various kinds of items. Periodical material may be emphasized in the catalog by guide cards or poster calling attention to the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*. The use of "Found in" subject cards to record poems or plays which are difficult to locate has proved advantageous. General reference cards for certain types of fiction, as "mystery stories" or "Western stories," listing authors of such books represented in the library, answer a question which many of us hear continually. Brief descriptive notes about books or

parts of books are perhaps very much a "frill," but have often been found most acceptable to patrons.

The value and interest to the public of such extra features in our catalogs will determine their adoption in different libraries. The public disregards the catalog in some libraries, and in such cases, all extra work would be worthless. However, in this help-yourself era an increasing number of people are coming to use the catalog, and it now comes within our province to teach them, by individual explanation or group instruction, how to help themselves.

Why build these cities glorious
If man unbuilded goes?
In vain we build the world unless
The builder also grows.

Daily contacts with books and people, the delights and satisfactions of rendering service cause us to grow "spiritually," let us call it; yet to continue to do "cataloging plus" we must also grow professionally by reading. Manuals, books and periodicals on every phase of library procedure are offered us for our knowledge and inspiration. Margaret Mann's *Introduction to the classification and cataloging of books* is the latest and most comprehensive book on cataloging, approaching the subject in a new and interesting way. Two pamphlets—Harriet E. Howe's "The catalog," and Esther A. Smith's "The great adventure"—will inspire the young assistant and would-be cataloger. The *Catalogers' and Classifiers' Yearbook*, giving annual proceedings of these groups at A. L. A. conferences, and articles on cataloging in monthly library journals give timely reading.

Cataloging, in the end, consists of countless decisions to make and deeds to do. It entails a vast knowledge of books and people, and above all, demands vision. Our whole service depends ultimately upon the catalog we create. For this reason, in "building cities glorious" can we do more than strive our utmost in the daily round of duties to do "cataloging plus"?

14,000 Reading as One¹

At each floor, even up to the fifth, the over-loaded elevators stop to leave another horde of hurrying students. They rush to secure the desired book as if it were on a Friday bargain table. In the outer catalog room the newcomers are halted by the complex puzzle of the long list of reference books to be consulted before tomorrow's lecture.

Each professor has provided each student with a sheet of mimeographed topics. Each book is followed by cipher letters and numbers. At the foot of the sheet is a key to the cipher. When in the crowd demanding the drawers of the card catalog the student has solved his professor's puzzle sheet, he may be in luck and find in the catalog the book listed. He carefully copies the letters and figures. Now he is given by the librarian a third set of symbols which may tell him in what section, case, and shelf his book ought to be found. There are, however, 400 students taking the same lecture and the chances are slim for an inexperienced solver of puzzles.

He may at least now enter the library. It is a long, low, imitation Gothic hall. Few of the windows seem to give any ventilation for the hundreds breathing there. The floor space is filled with long tables seating 20. There is a center aisle, perhaps five feet wide. A narrow one-foot aisle leads to the shelves lining the walls. Every chair is taken, yet there is constant motion for all the readers have not found the book assigned. The student attendants seem as new and helpless as the many foreign students who in broken English apply to the librarians for aid.

This ceaseless, hopeless hunting for books goes on all day long; for if one book is found, there are 10 more on the list for tomorrow, and there are fresh arrivals on every trip of the elevator.

¹ Observations on readers in a library during a summer course at a teachers' college.

Up and down the center aisle and round the shelves goes Kipling's "Infantry column." The reader finds himself listening to "Boots":

Seven—six—eleven—five—nine an' twenty
mile to-day—

Four—eleven—seventeen—thirty-two the
day before—

(Boots—boots—boots—boots—movin' up
and down again!)

There's no such book on the shelf.

And what of the readers, those who have found the book assigned. If they have no chair, they stand by the shelf, read the assigned pages, consult their guide sheets, move along till they find the next book on the list, read, move on. It is somewhat like a crowd of caterpillars that crawl along the mulberry stems, but the pace is more rapid.

The lucky ones at the table never so much as lift an eye to the troubles of the seeking, marching throng. If they leave their chair to try another book, they lose their table place. They have learned the art of concentration from necessity. No sights nor sounds can now disturb the city reader. He has made himself sound-proof to all environment. From far below on the street side of the library come piercing howls and yells of a street ball game. Suddenly these cries are swept aside by the roar of fire engines. Later an ambulance bell clangs. Then the motors of a mammoth airship roar just outside the window. None of these sounds seem to penetrate the reader's consciousness. That is not so remarkable for on the library court are still more disturbing sounds. Far below in the basement the rattle and clash of thousands of cafeteria dishes and silver contend with the piano practice of an M. A. in music and the xylophone and drum practice of the pre-kindergarten band. There is an official reception going on too in the courtyard, and later there will be a jazz band for dancing. But the reader and the boots are unmoved in their quest. They go on forever searching the pages.

What is it they read so intently? Why is it they never dare to look up? Never pause to make notes? Never hear the medley of shuffling feet, baseball yells, music and dishwashing? They are all too old and wise, you say? Yes, but the courses they are studying are courses in how to teach. Yes, some have taught for 20 years or longer and successfully. Some have even taught the young professors under whom they now take "Methods." Why do they lose their vacations in this way?

Education has now become a great trust like any other business enterprise. If you are seeking a job or a promotion under this monopoly, you must obey its orders. The trust says so many degrees for such and such a job; so many dollars subsidy for such and such a summer course, provided you can make an *A*. It must be from a certain university for your superintendent is linked up with only that one, judging by his appointments.

Hence, these 14,000 readers pass in files along the prescribed cafeteria diet on the bookshelves and read not what they would, but what they must to gain so many points, so many credits, for so many dollars, for so many promotions. It is the latest American dollar system as applied to education. The summer of six weeks has cost between \$300 and \$500; there will be no time or money left for visiting the family back home, or for seeking rest and recreation elsewhere; but if they can win the supervisor's or the superintendent's favor thereby, it is money well spent. These ever-new methods must be seized upon by the ever-progressive teacher. Hence, there are 14,000 reading as one. If by next summer straps can be hung from the ceiling for the convenience of the incoming 16,000 readers, the library will offer all the speed and convenience of the subway.

SARAH AGNES WALLACE

A Review of the First Twenty-Five Years' Activities of the American Library Institute¹

Mary Eileen Ahern

Questions regarding the American Library Institute often rise in the minds of the younger members of the American Library Association. The A. L. A. they understand fairly well; a state library association was their first trying-out grounds; local library clubs have made plain the library plans and activities in their immediate surroundings. But when it comes to the American Library Institute, over and over again one hears the question: What is the American Library Institute and why have both the American Library Institute and the American Library Association?

It is regrettable that this state of affairs should exist, and so I answer the request to speak on the career of the American Library Institute in this twenty-fifth year of its existence.

It is well known that the American Library Association was the first of its kind; and in this discussion that organization may be left out of the question. But what is the American Library Institute? Why was an institute started? And, what is of more interest and value to the present members of the A. L. I., what of its future career?

As in so many other instances, the idea of having such an organization as the American Library Institute came from the active brain of Melvil Dewey.

The American Library Association, which at first was a small compact body concerned almost entirely with details of work, organization, and related subjects, grew in membership and advanced in the extent of its work with the years. And those who were most active both in its plans and purpose and seeing larger things ahead became somewhat weary of

¹ Read at the twenty-fifth meeting of the American Library Institute, New Haven, Connecticut, June 23, and printed by request of the members present. —F. K. Walter, Secretary, A. L. I.

hearing the same questions asked and answered largely in the same way, of hearing the same people talk and saying most of the things they had been saying for more than 20 years. Many in the A. L. A. began wondering, as was done not so long ago when people entirely unprepared to answer it from every standpoint asked the question, What shall we do with the old librarians?

The real question in the minds of many in the profession then was What provision shall be made for continuing in the councils of the library profession those whose opinions and judgments, seasoned by experience, are valuable and still not expect or require them to carry the burden of progress as it was enlarging on every side?

Then it was, in about 1902, that Mr. Dewey conceived the notion of a sort of honorary society open to the senior members who had achieved worthily. The area of membership was to cover the whole country. To be chosen a member of the Institute was to be a coveted honor. It was to be understood that a person so chosen had received a mark of distinction for notable achievement from the leaders of his whole profession; and this mark of distinction should not only redound to the honor of the recipient in his locality, but was expected to inspire the hearts of those with whom he worked and in the region in which he lived to emulate the effort and accomplishment of the one selected for membership in the Institute. The proposed organization was to be akin to the American Academy of Letters in the bestowal of its favors, and, indeed, there was much talk at first of using the name "Academy" instead of "Institute." At this point, perhaps, began the spirit that worked somewhat of havoc to the original splendid idea set out by its author. Those persons who are always to be seen on the fringe or in the rear of any new movement, finding much to laugh at in

the efforts of those who try to strike out on a higher level in a new direction, succeeded in relegating to oblivion the thought of such a name—perhaps fortunately. After much discussion among the distinguished A. L. A. ex-presidents who were then alive, the name "American Library Institute" was finally chosen.

The American Library Association post-conference trip in 1905, which was a trip to Alaska in two specially chartered boats, gave opportunity for full, free, and open discussion (undisturbed by any outsiders) of the advisability and probability of success of such an organization. This discussion was constant and earnest; it was largely confined to former A. L. A. presidents—E. C. Richardson, Samuel S. Green, Melvil Dewey, F. M. Crunden, Henry M. Utley, John Cotton Dana. In addition, a number of the other travelers joined in it, those who at that date were active in less exalted but no less valuable positions in the American Library Association: Mary W. Plummer, Alice Kroeger, Nina E. Browne, Frank P. Hill, Helen E. Haines, Mary Eileen Ahern, Anderson H. Hopkins, Theodore Wesley Koch, Josephine Adams Rathbone, Charles Barr, C. W. Andrews, and others. Discussion continued day after day. (And be it remembered there was little token of any but daytime on that trip, the season and latitude making it almost the region of the midnight sun. More than once the moonlight was lost in the fast approaching sunlight.) Unanimity of opinion was not achieved on this trip, nor did a later meeting in the fall at Lake Placid club in New York achieve agreement when other and diverse opinions were offered in regard to the matter.

Discussion full and free, and it must be confessed with some acrimonious feeling, continued for several months. But the idea of bringing into existence such an organization survived and was finally developed affirmatively by a com-

mittee of ex-presidents chosen for that purpose, there being only one dissenting vote in the committee. This committee at the same time submitted a list of other librarians who in their opinion should become members of the Institute. This was also accepted.

It has been questioned whether it was wise to have admitted so many who might be properly excluded from the list as not having achieved notable distinction by the occupancy of the presidential chair in the American Library Association. It was then and is still considered the highest honor that may be achieved in A. L. A. membership, but it was thot that the field of choice should be wider than that honor could or ever would cover.

After further discussion the matter was brought to a head by the formation of the American Library Institute at a meeting at Atlantic City in March, 1906, when a president and secretary were named and a constitution was formally adopted. The constitution was simple in form and content, and one may question whether the amendments since adopted have not in a measure veered away from the original idea of such an organization. An Institute board consisting of five members, of which the president was ex-officio chairman, was the body to which was given final decision on matters about which there might be some difference of opinion. Other duties assigned to this board were to prepare programs, pass on proposed memberships, declare elections, invite speakers, etc., with a definite idea of relieving the membership of the Institute from the burdensome details of administration.

The first president was Melvil Dewey (senior ex-president of the A. L. A., 1893), then state librarian of New York. The secretary was Henry J. Carr (ex-president of A. L. A., 1901), then public librarian of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

It was decided that meetings should be held at least once a year, preferably for convenience of the Fellowship, at the time and place of the annual American Library Association meeting, but other meetings might be held at the call of the board. Only one year has passed wherein no meetings of the Institute were held.

The record of the meetings of later years shows personal opinion and preference entering largely into the makeup and conduct of the Institute, but on the whole in several periods its work has been valuable and worthy of commendation.

Born under the auspices of a semi-antagonistic spirit, it could hardly be expected that the Institute would have a definite goal or move towards it or any other goal by leaps and bounds.

Henry J. Carr, who was secretary for a number of years, sent brief abstracts of proceedings to the *Library Journal* and *Public Libraries*, but no printed reports appeared for six or eight years. Its activities in the early years were confined to the purposes expressed in the constitution of the Institute—free and untrammelled expression of opinion on all matters pertaining to libraries in any relation.

The attempt of some of the membership in the early days to have presented worthwhile papers in orderly fashion, notably J. H. Canfield, J. C. Dana, H. G. Wadlin, John Thomson, Charles H. Gould, W. D. Johnston and others, has furnished worthy expressions of opinion on a variety of subjects in the pamphlets of proceedings of those early years. It is to be hoped that someone some-day will take the papers and discussions at the meetings of New York City, Kaaterskill, and succeeding meetings and produce a consecutive story of the ideas set forth at those meetings, for the purpose seems to have run thru the early meetings to "bring together the best library workers

and speakers of English speaking America for a more thoro discussion of important questions than there is ever opportunity for at A. L. A. and other meetings."

There has never been any set line of discussion, either of subject or manner of presentation. "The use of printed catalog cards" by Clement W. Andrews, "Looking at old books" and "The pleasure of being a librarian" by John Thomson, "More compact storage of books" by George T. Little, "Branch libraries in school houses" by J. C. Dana and Henry M. Utley, "Need of specialization in library service" and "Recruiting for library work" by W. D. Johnston, "Limits of coöperation" and "Study and discussion of library problems" by Dr. E. C. Richardson are topics worthy of perusal.

The fields of research, publication, teaching, and coöperation were always uppermost topics at the early meetings. "Descriptions of certain scholarly collections" is a topic that has attracted attention of the most scholarly speakers at the Institute, as well as some phases of bibliography. Indeed, the contents of all the pamphlets are most enticing to further perusal of the proceedings themselves, none of which is deterrent because of its length or extent of the fields covered. This can be illustrated by the lists of subjects introduced by Dr. Richardson at various meetings.

It cannot be denied that the work of the general membership of the American Library Institute has not been steady or deeply considered, that the membership in general has not been interested, that election to the fellowship has not brought with it consciousness of duty that has produced from the general body material that will be valuable in tracing historical development in later years; and yet, every year there has been a saving remnant that has preserved the organization to the present time. In this

may be included the valuable work on "Encouragement of research" by H. O. Severance in 1928.

It is proper to mention at this time the generous and unflagging contributions of Dr. Richardson in interest and means in the several years in which he served most acceptably as president of the American Library Institute, and to express the hope that some of the proposals for archives and records for consultants in research work made by Dr. Richardson may yet find abiding place in the annals of general library service as it has in the Library of Congress. It was largely thru the conduct of Institute affairs by Dr. Richardson that at a notable meeting held at Atlantic City on March 4, 1916, a program of future activities to be undertaken by the Institute without abandoning its original purpose was outlined. Dr. Richardson's presentation at that meeting was so attractive that Mary W. Plummer and others who previously had not endorsed the idea of a national library group outside of the American Library Association expressed approval of the Institute. Miss Plummer said that since the matter had been presented in a new light to her and as Dr. Richardson had revealed it, the subject opened an unlimited vision in many directions which at present was not even sensed by the majority of library workers and in the consideration of which she should be greatly interested. (See *Public Libraries* 21:228). This attitude on the part of Miss Plummer induced a number of others, who had previously stood aloof if not more in their treatment of the Institute and its ideas, to follow her lead. Indeed, the attitude of Mr. R. R. Bowker, one of the strong opponents, began so to change that in October, 1929, the Institute held a meeting at his invitation on the Bowker estate at Stockbridge, Massachusetts. It was here that the question What shall we do with our old librarians? was formally discussed.

In the opinion now of an increasing number of those in the library circle, there is place for the original idea of the American Library Institute—a reflective body for discussing, clarifying, and formulating opinions, leaving action involving responsibility to the A. L. A. and its organizations, and committing the Institute as a body to neither support nor opposition of any purpose or movement that is not a part of its own concerns. Those who have striven thus far to develop ideas and formulate ideals for the Institute may feel a pride in whatever they have accomplished in this direction. The future will carry its own responsibility for its own accomplishments.

American Library Association Notes and news

"Evolution" is the most recent reading course of the *Reading with a Purpose* series published by the A. L. A. This course recommends eight books on evolution by Vernon Kellogg, Patrick Geddes, G. H. Parker, Charles Darwin, R. S. Lull, Edward Clodd and H. H. Newman.

The request of the A. L. A. to the Executive committee of the Rockefeller Foundation for an additional appropriation of \$5,000 for the completion of the list of serial publications of foreign governments was granted on May 22. Any sum unexpended after the completion of the work will revert to the Foundation.

Reference books of 1930, second of the annual supplements to *Guide to Reference Books*, by Isadore G. Mudge, has just been published. As in Reference books of 1929, Miss Mudge does not aim to include all reference works of the year, but to indicate the more important and useful of the new publications.

More than 250 titles reviewed in the current supplement range from labor statistics to incunabula and include reference compilations from 29 countries. The uses that may be made of foreign

encyclopedias in American libraries are emphasized.

"100 books chosen by prominent Americans," compiled by Nathan G. Goodman, is a new A. L. A. reading list designed for free distribution by libraries. The books "which every American between the ages of 20 and 45 should read," were selected by the vote of 100 persons included in *Who's Who in America*, and are arranged according to the popularity of the chosen titles.

Essentials in library administration, recent publication of the A. L. A., summarizes practices which were found to work most satisfactorily in small public libraries thruout the country. This, the fourth edition, was revised by Ethel F. McCullough and Maud van Buren.

Among the many interesting points discussed are selection of a capable librarian, qualifications of trustees, by-laws for a library board, and equipment of the library building in relation to future as well as immediate needs. There are also brief discussions of all phases of library science. Work with children is given special mention as is coöperation with schools.

One of the newest movements in education is the development of junior colleges. In response to constantly recurring requests from these institutions for advice concerning library facilities, the A. L. A. has just published Books for junior colleges, compiled by Edna A. Hester, librarian of Pomona Junior College.

Altho intended primarily as a buying and check list for junior college libraries, this book may be equally useful to librarians in the four-year institutions interested in studying the needs of underclassmen or for librarians in senior high schools who seek transitional material to minimize the gap between secondary and higher schools. In a public library it may be used to suggest books of information for readers whose background is somewhat limited.

Library Meetings

Cleveland—The twenty-third annual conference of the Special Libraries association held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 10-12, was one of the best and most successful in its history.

At the general sessions, economic subjects were presented by men of national reputation among whom were Colonel Leonard P. Ayres, vice-president of the Cleveland Trust Company, and Whiting Williams, author and lecturer.

The newspaper group, under the direction of Mr. Sheridan, librarian of the *Akron Beacon Journal*, conducted a tour to the plants of the Goodyear Company and the *Beacon Journal* at Akron, Ohio.

About 200 delegates attended the banquet and reception by the Cleveland chapter of the S. L. A. Dorothy Ferguson, librarian of the Bank of America at San Francisco, acted as toastmistress and Randolph Eide, president of both the Ohio Bell Telephone Company and Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, presented the address of the evening "Planning ahead—the use of commercial research."

The post convention trip to Detroit attracted about 50 of the delegates. Among the features of the Detroit day were the visits to the special libraries; luncheon at the Grosse Point Yacht club with Adam Strohm, president of the A. L. A. and librarian of the Detroit public library, and Margaret Mann, associate professor, department of library science, University of Michigan; and the garden party at the Detroit public library.

The officers for 1931-32 are as follows: President, Alta B. Claflin, Federal Reserve Bank, Cleveland; first vice-president, Joseph A. Conforti, Peoples Gas Light & Coke Company, Chicago; second vice-president, Louise P. Dorn, Edison Company, Detroit, Michigan; treasurer, Elizabeth O. Cullen, Bureau of Railway Economics, Washington, D. C.; directors—Margaret Reynolds, First

Wisconsin National Bank, Milwaukee; Eleanor S. Cavanaugh, Standard Statistics Company, New York City; Angus Fletcher, British Library of Information, New York City; Frederick A. Robertson, Hydro-Electric Power commission, Toronto, Canada.

J. A. CONFORTI

District of Columbia—The annual meeting of the District of Columbia library association was held at Washington on May 28. The principal address was made by E. W. James, chief of the Division of highway transport, U. S. Bureau of public roads. Mr. James talked of certain experiences he met in Latin-American libraries and spoke on the "Inter-American highway and some of its possibilities."

The following officers were elected for next year: President, Elizabeth O. Cullen, Bureau of Railway Economics library; vice-president, W. T. Purdum, Public library; secretary, Alvin W. Kremer, Library of Congress; assistant secretary, Lina W. Carnahan, Geological Survey library; treasurer, Sara Abbott, Bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. Ralph L. Thompson, Public library, Isabel DuBois, Bureau of navigation libraries, and William L. Boyden, librarian, Supreme Council 33, Scottish Rite, were elected as members of the Executive board. Mary G. Lacy, Bureau of Agricultural Economics library, was elected as the representative of the Association on the Executive board of the Columbian library association.

A social hour followed the formal meeting.

W. T. PURDUM
Secretary

Georgia—The Georgia library association held its biennial meeting in Valdosta, April 30-May 2, with a larger representation than at any previous meeting.

Jessie Hopkins, librarian of Carnegie library of Atlanta, had charge of a book symposium which opened the meeting.

An account of the valuable Georgia collection at the Georgia State College for Women, Milledgeville, was given by the librarian, Virginia Satterfield.

Features of the general session were: a discussion of the program of the A. L. A. regional field work, by Tommie Dora Barker; a history of Emory University library school, by Clara E. Howard, dean; an outline of New York's classification scheme for libraries with the view of rating Georgia libraries similarly, by Marjorie Beal, director of North Carolina library commission; and a survey of the high school library situation in Georgia, by Dorothy Horton of Savannah High School library.

At the final session Beverly Wheatcroft, secretary of Georgia library commission, announced the plan of the incoming state administration as one of reduction of state bureaus and departments, and urged that every library in the state rally to the support of the commission in order that it might not be among those eliminated.

The new officers elected were: President, Jessie Hopkins, Carnegie library of Atlanta; secretary-treasurer, Helen Daughtry, Washington Memorial library, Macon.

The next meeting will be held in Athens in 1933.

Omaha—At a meeting on June 7 of the Librarians' club—consisting of librarians of university, high school, law, medical and public libraries of Omaha and Council Bluffs—the following officers were elected for next year:

President, Madalene S. Hillis, University of Nebraska Medical College; vice-president, Mrs. Lucille Reynolds, Creighton University library; secretary-treasurer, Hazel Crandall, Central High School library.

Oregon—The Eastern Oregon library association held its second annual meeting in La Grande on May 29. At the

opening session Mrs. J. K. Charlton of La Grande gave an address of welcome.

At the morning meeting, the outstanding accomplishments of the year were discussed by each librarian. Harriet Long, state librarian, gave an interesting talk on "The book collection—the weeding and building up."

The afternoon session opened with a book symposium led by Elizabeth Olson, librarian of Umatilla County, and a discussion on "The library and education" led by Mildred Huntamer, librarian at Baker.

The following officers were elected for next year: President, Mildred Huntamer; vice-president, Mrs. L. Z. Terrall; secretary-treasurer, Blanche Herzinger.

Pasadena—Some of the secrets of the stars were disclosed to members of the Pasadena library club at its annual meeting Wednesday night, June 3, at the top of Mount Wilson. Carl Moon, artist and writer, was elected president, and L. Louise Wier, secretary-treasurer of the organization for the coming year.

Approximately 60 made the trip up the mountain. After dinner the club assembled in the lecture room of the hotel where it heard W. P. Hoge, whose hundreds of lectures during the past several years have introduced to thousands the fundamentals of astronomy.

Mr. Hoge conducted his hearers later to the 60-inch telescope, where librarians were given glimpses of the stars. The great mirror was focused upon the Hercules cluster and while, one by one, the observers peeked thru the lens, Mr. Hoge answered the many questions.

A number of the club members remained over night in order to watch the sunrise Thursday morning. After sunrise, a few members visited the solar observatory, a privilege accorded to few persons. Thru the medium of an intelligent guide the intricacies of the solar laboratory equipment were explained. The rising sun's rays were caught thru

the telescope and mirrored with their many colors, as the obliging guide, a young scientist, explained just how astronomers know the various elements of which the great orb is composed.

The outing was adjudged as one of the most enjoyable in the history of the club. The success of the "expedition" is credited to the club's president, Dr. Walter S. Adams, who is director of the observatory.

MRS. PATRICIA DUTCHER
Secretary-treasurer

Rhode Island—At the annual spring meeting of the Rhode Island library association held at Newport, June 5, Dr. H. B. Van Hoesen, librarian of Brown University, was elected president. Other officers elected were: First vice-president, Lawrence M. Shaw, Providence; second vice-president, Ruth E. Greene, Providence; secretaries, Mrs. Dorothy Gray Watts and Dorothy Bell, Providence; treasurer, Gertrude E. Browne, Providence; executive committee—Mrs. Sara E. Sherman of Providence, May V. Crenshaw of Newport, and Grace H. Hall of Woonsocket.

The members passed a resolution calling for a committee of three persons to confer with the state board of education and such other school authorities as deemed advisable to remove from children and others temptation to mutilate books.

Mrs. Maude Howe Elliott talked on "Some American artists I have known," and Harford Powell, Boston author, spoke on books in general as well as Newport reminiscences.

Sarah B. Askew, librarian and secretary of New Jersey state public library commission, told of the development and work of that commission and its value to the state.

Virginia—The Regional Group of catalogers of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia held a meeting at Charlottesville, Virginia, on May 23. A

dinner preceded the delightful program planned by the chairman, Miss Dinwiddie, and her officers.

An address of welcome by Harry Clemons, University of Virginia librarian, was followed by a most interesting talk on Thomas Jefferson by Professor Rodman of the University faculty. He spoke particularly of Jefferson's interest and activities in architecture as evidenced in his planning of the original group of University buildings, especially the library, and in various phases of domestic architecture culminating in his own beautiful home of Monticello.

At a short business meeting officers were elected as follows: Chairman, Edmund A. Freeman, Bureau of Railway Economics library, Washington, D. C.; vice-chairman, Jane Cooke, Library of Congress; secretary-treasurer, Lina Carnahan, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington; members of the advisory committee—Martha Hall, Baltimore, Maryland; Theresa Hodges, Petersburg, Virginia; Mary Crowther, Library of Congress.

The meeting was both preceded and followed by visits to the University libraries and to points of historic interest in Charlottesville and vicinity. An expression of thanks was voted to the retiring officers for their faithful service during the past year.

LINA W. CARNAHAN
Secretary-treasurer

Coming meetings

Maine library association annual meeting, Kittery, September 2-4.

New Hampshire library association annual meeting, Hanover, September 9-11.

New York library association annual meeting, Lake Placid club, September 21-26.

Connecticut library association meeting, Greenwich, October 1-2.

Michigan library association annual meeting, Battle Creek, October 7-9.

Minnesota library association meeting, Faribault, October 8-10.

Colorado and Wyoming library associations joint meeting, Boulder, Colorado, October 8-10.

Nebraska library association meeting, Omaha, October 13-15.

Wisconsin library association annual meeting, Milwaukee, October 14-16.

Kentucky library association annual meeting, Louisville, October 15-16.

Pennsylvania library association conference, Pittsburgh, October 20-23.

Kansas library association convention, Wichita, October 21-23.

Illinois library association annual meeting, Peoria, October 21-23.

Texas library association biennial meeting, San Antonio, October 28-31.

Missouri library association meeting, Cape Girardeau, October 29-31.

At a meeting of library officials and those having book interests, held in Algiers, North Africa, April 13-18, one of the speakers was M. Barthelemy, formerly French Consular General to Chicago.

M. Barthelemy is reported by *L'Echo d'Alger* to have said at the meeting that the Americans were not inclined to buy French books because they were stitched—that is, not bound—making their preservation impossible. This will doubtless be news to American libraries which are accustomed to having their books bound not once but several times if their contents and the condition of the leaves make it worth while.

M. Barthelemy is quoted as having said also, "At Chicago in particular, the dirty air and the humidity of the climate turns every book into a filthy rag in eight days unless it is protected by a solid binding." The editor's comment was "Let us rejoice that we live in a country where one can keep a stitched book all his life without its becoming a filthy rag."

Interesting Things in Print

First editions of Johnsoniana and other English literature have been issued as Catalogue no. 136, by Walter M. Hill, 25 East Washington Street, Chicago.

A list of American doctoral dissertations printed in 1929, by Mary Wilson MacNair of the catalog division of the Library of Congress, is a bibliography which has been issued recently.

"A bookshelf for parents" is the title of an interesting circular issued by the Public Library, Lakewood, Ohio. As the title implies, it is a guide to parents on the care and training of children. A short annotation is given of each book which is listed.

County libraries, compiled by Julia E. Johnsen, is v. 6, no. 7 of *The Reference Shelf Series* (H. W. Wilson Company). This volume is a valuable tool for those who are interested in studying the subject of county libraries. It conforms to the policy of the series in presenting material for both sides in debates, and information for the general reader.

"Practical bibliography making with problems and examples," by Martha Connor, associate professor of library science, Carnegie library school, has recently been issued by the H. W. Wilson Company. (50c). It is based on the elementary course in bibliography which is given in the first year. The exercises are simple and the directions explicit. Essential principles only of bibliography making are given.

The World calendar association, 485 Madison Avenue, New York City, has recently published a pamphlet "Journal of calendar reform" by Elisabeth Acheles. Seven changes in the defects of the Gregorian calendar are recommended—February is given two additional days; the thirty-first days of March, May and August are eliminated; April is given 31 days; and December 31

is termed Year day. The pamphlet is exceedingly interesting and scholarly and well worth reading.

The Public library of Albany, New York, has issued an annotated list of some 10 or 15 recent books on Russia and the five year plan. This is a subject around which readers have woven (perhaps) more mystery than the situation warrants, and the general public is beginning to really study the "situation in Russia."

The 1930 supplement to the *Standard Catalog for High School Libraries*—Library card numbers, has recently been issued by the H. W. Wilson Company as an aid to libraries in ordering cards.

Following the plan of the main catalog, this is in two parts—a classified list and a dictionary catalog. About 202 books and 45 pamphlets in all have been included.

Until the next edition of the *High School Catalog* is published, the supplement will be sent without charge to those who have purchased the *Standard Catalog for High School Libraries* (Parts I and II). To those who have not purchased the *Catalog*, the price is 50 cents delivered.

"Crops other than fruits, vegetables and nuts," compiled by Louise O. Bercaw, Bureau of Agricultural Economics library, Department of Agriculture, has just been issued as *Agricultural Economics Bibliography* no. 31. This is Part 2 of the third of a series of indexes or source books of agricultural statistics issued by the library in coöperation with the College of Agriculture of the University of California.

Another bibliography compiled by Miss Bercaw and issued recently is "Wheat: cost of production, 1923-1930" (*Agricultural Economics Bibliography* no. 33).

The Cleveland public library has collected thru its business information bureau a group of 68 books and pamphlets on Russia, none of them published later than 1930. The collection includes information on the five year plan from engineers and economists, on its foreign trade and the importance of its trade to America; a group of articles which includes the present series on Russia by H. R. Knickerbocker, now being published in *The Cleveland News*; a discussion of its economic background by several trained investigators; and books on its railroads, oil industry and agriculture. Some of the data is information issued first hand by the soviet state publishing house at Moscow and by the government's Chamber of Commerce.

A New Phase of Book Thievery

A book thief, Harold B. Clark of New York, was recently arrested near Boston and several hundred valuable books were found in his possession. Many are seventeenth and eighteenth century volumes. It seemed he evidently disposed of them to dealers in Paris, London, Berlin and other foreign cities.

From notes found in Mr. Clark's room, it was evident that he had in mind to issue a book dealing with wholesale looting of priceless literature, which a New York publisher had already accepted for publication.

Mr. Clark's plan of work was to form a pleasant acquaintance with the officials and authorities of libraries and thru their good graces obtain possession of what he wanted.

Discover Valuable Gospel Manuscripts

Rare gospel manuscripts dating back several centuries have come to light in the Greek, Armenian and Syrian collections in Chicago.

The latest discovery, which has been purchased by the New Testament department of the University of Chicago, is a

thirteenth century manuscript of the gospels in Greek, and is said to be regarded by experts as one of the finest known pieces of cursive, or running-hand script, writing in any collection. The manuscript was brought to the United States in 1916 from Jamina, the Albanian city noted for its monastic library of the Greek Orthodox church. It was found in the possession of a Chicago dentist.

The University of Chicago during the past year has found and purchased two Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, three Syriac manuscripts of the authorized New Testament of the Syrian church and four Armenian manuscripts.

Early Printed Books

A small but very fine collection of rare books, 17 of which were printed before 1500, has been loaned for exhibit purposes by Dr. Looe Baker to the Public library, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The very oldest book in the collection was printed in 1468 by Scheffer, one of the three discoverers of printing.

It is believed the collection was undoubtedly a part of Philip Melancthon's private library. A copy of Seneca's works printed in 1490 has the annotations of Melancthon in fine handwriting on the margins, as has his copy of Valerius Maximus printed in 1508. Another rare book printed in 1517 has annotations in Martin Luther's handwriting.

One of the most important books in the collection is a work (printed in 1485) in German illustrated by crude wood-cuts colored by some process after the book was printed. Another large volume of sermons printed in 1485, was the first book printed in the city of Heidelberg. There are interesting specimens of old binding. A specimen in handwriting done by a group of nuns has been

given a beautiful binding and is in an excellent state of preservation.

This collection, 37 volumes in all, was purchased in London in 1835 from the noted collector, Dr. Kloss of Frankfort-on-the-Main, and has come down thru inheritance to Dr. Baker.

Library Schools

Carnegie library school

The thirtieth anniversary of the School was observed June 6-9, at which time over 200 students returned for reunion festivities.

The degree of Bachelor of Science in Library Science was conferred upon 150 college graduates, former students in the School, 66 of whom were present at the commencement exercises. There were 67 approved colleges represented in this group of graduates.

The reunion opened with a tea Saturday afternoon given by the Pittsburgh chapter of the Carnegie library school association. This was followed in the evening by a banquet at which Dr. George H. Locke, chief librarian of the Toronto public library, was the principal speaker.

Sunday was given over to a motor tour of the city, a tea at the Library School dormitory, and class reunion suppers.

At a round table meeting on Monday morning, presided over by Elizabeth Nesbitt, Sister M. Hieronyma, Mrs. Blanche K. S. Wappat, and Jessie Gay Van Cleve gave interesting talks. Effie L. Power was in charge of the evening session at which time Helen Martin and Elizabeth Keith spoke on future aspects of library work with children, and Dr. Florence Teagarden spoke on "Heirs of the fourth estate."

The class of 1931 included 27 college graduates who were given degrees. Twelve seniors from Carnegie Institute of Technology and eight from the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh received degrees from their colleges. Two special students in the class completed the course in Library work with children.

Susanna Young ('18) and Helen R. Westlake ('24) received the B. A. degree, with high honor, from the University of Pittsburgh on June 10. Laura Cooper Bailey ('23) received her B. A. from the School of Education of the University of Pittsburgh on the same day.

The following appointments from the 1931 class have been made in the Carnegie library system of Pittsburgh:

Cornelia C. Backofen, assistant in children's department; Gertrude J. Bradt and Caroline G. Holmes, assistants in central lending department; Catherine M. Hill, assistant in Wylie Avenue branch; Margaret Hull, assistant in art division; Jeanne B. Lloyd, readers assistant in adult lending division; Julia D. Moorhead, assistant in South Side branch.

Other appointments have been made as follows:

Margaret A. Jones ('30), librarian, Bellevue high school, Bellevue, Pennsylvania.

Leah A. Keller ('30), librarian, Public library, Midland, Pennsylvania.

Janet G. Peirce ('31), librarian, Junior high school, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

FRANCES H. KELLY

Associate director

George Peabody College for Teachers

Fifteen young women who completed, during the school year 1930-31, the 45 quarter hour curriculum in library science, received their certificates June 5. This was the date of the annual convocation exercises of Peabody College, and library science students receiving their B. S. degrees marched in the commencement procession. But since the majority were already college graduates, it seemed appropriate to plan a small function which should recognize in simple fashion the additional year of work. Accordingly, at nine in the morning in the library school rooms these 15 received their certificates at the hands of President Payne of Peabody College. In the course of his informal remarks, President Payne

took occasion to stress the value of adequate preparation for library service, observing that the time is at hand when in any educational institution the points of emphasis should be two: the faculty and the library.

Following Dr. Payne, Jackson E. Towne, librarian of Peabody College and director of the Library school, delivered a "thumb nail" commencement address closing with the statement that "as teachers must be more than merely teachers of their subjects, so school librarians must be *librarians* likewise. They will not neglect to maintain a continually careful acquaintance with developments in other types of libraries in their towns, their counties, their states, their sections, their nation, and the world. If they fail in this they will ultimately fail in their school libraries. If they fail in this in the South, they will have lost an exceptional opportunity, a splendid challenge at the present moment."

Matriculation for the summer session came close on the heels of convocation. So far this year the Library school has been following a curriculum laid down for it previous to its entrance upon the enlarged program made possible by the Carnegie grant which came too late to admit of changes in the 1930 college catalog. The 1931 summer quarter, therefore, marks the beginning of work under the revised curriculum and in new and adequately equipped quarters.

The process of registration was not without complications, for a number of students who began their library science program under the three year plan adopted two summers ago had to be fitted into the new schedule. Of the 96 students enrolled, a large number are teachers or librarians in service who are taking advantage of three consecutive summer quarters to complete a one-year curriculum in library science.

The members of the summer teaching staff are: Pearl G. Carlson, Wilhelmina

E. Carothers, Irene M. Doyle, Lucile F. Fargo, Margaret A. Gramesly, Isabel Howell, Willard O. Mishoff, Miriam B. Snow.

LUCILE F. FARGO
Associate director

Pratt Institute

Commencement this year came on June 4 when, after a stirring address by Dr. George E. Vincent, the 24 members of the class of 1931 received the certificate of the Institute. The important function of the commencement season at Pratt is the alumni supper, held this year on May 26. About 125 were in attendance, the classes of 1896, 1906, 1911, and 1921 having a special place on the program. This is always an intimate family affair at which the utmost informality and a spirit of gayety prevail. The class of 1931 presented two skits, a current topics class and a lecture by a visiting lecturer, that carried everyone back, joyously, to their own classroom days.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE
Vice-director

Western Reserve University

Students of library science of Cleveland College of Western Reserve University received certificates upon the completion of the one year course of the college on May 29. Dr. A. Caswell Ellis, director of Cleveland College, and Dr. Winfred G. Leutner, dean of University administration, addressed the 17 graduates.

The Founders Day exercises of the School of library science, Western Reserve University, were held in Severance Hall on June 16. Linda A. Eastman, librarian of the Cleveland public library, gave the address "The whole duty of the librarian."

New schools

The new Library school at the University of Denver which will be opened in September, 1931, will be under the directorship of Harriet E. Howe of the

Graduate library school, University of Chicago. Helen Butler of the Chicago public library has been appointed to teach the courses in Book selection and Reference; Agnes Camilla Hanson, formerly head of the catalog department, American Library in Paris, will teach Cataloging and Classification.

The University of Denver library school will offer the only opportunity for library training in the entire Rocky Mountain region. The Denver public library and the libraries of the Denver public schools, the University of Denver and neighboring colleges and cities will serve as a background for observation and practice.

Thru a grant of \$60,000 from the General Education board and a like sum to be set aside from the University budget for the next five years, a school to provide training for librarians will be opened at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Graduation from an approved college or university and a reading knowledge of two foreign languages, preferably French and German, will be required for admission.

James A. McMillen, University librarian, will be director of the new library school which will have quarters in the library building of the University.

A circular giving full announcements will be issued in July.

The new School of library science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will open September 18, 1931. Dr. Louis R. Wilson, University librarian, will be director of the School. The other members of the faculty are Donald Coney, Robert Bingham Downs, Susan Grey Akers and Nora Beust.

Besides the basic course for general library work the School will offer three curricula, permitting the student to specialize in preparation for work in one of three fields: elementary and high school libraries, city and county public li-

braries, or college and university libraries.

The School has been organized as a graduate library school with the requirement for admission of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and a reading knowledge of French and German.

Books Recommended for the Retarded Child

[Olive E. Powers, who has done some remarkably effective work as library teacher in the Greenfield School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has found the following books of value both in interest and progress to the retarded children whom she finally succeeded in interesting in books.—M. E. F.]

Books used in connection with studies on Indian life

Brooks. Stories of the red children. Educational Publishing Company.
Carroll. Around the world, bk. 1.
Chance. Little folks of many lands. Ginn.
Cooke. Nature myths and stories. Flanagan.
Dearborn. How the Indians lived. Ginn.
Deming. Indian child life. Stokes.
Stokes. Little brothers of the West.

Many snows ago. Stokes.
Fox. Indian primer. American Book.
Holbrook. Hiawatha primer. Houghton.
Judd. Wigwam stories. Ginn.
Moran. Kwahu, the Hopi Indian boy.
Mott and Dutton. Fishing and hunting. American Book.
Newell. Indian stories. Silver.
Powers. Around an Iroquois story fire. American Book.
Stories the Iroquois tell their children. American Book.
Scantlebury. Little world children. Ginn.
Schwartz. Five little strangers. American Book.
Snedden. Docas. Heath.
White. The magic forest. Macmillan.
Wilson. Indian hero tales. American Book.

Other books used by the special class

Adelborg. Clean Peter. Longmans.
Bailey. Girls make-at-home-things. Stokes.
Baldwin. Fairy reader. American Book.
Book. Fifty famous people. American Book.
Book. Fifty famous stories. American Book.
Bass. Stories of pioneer life. Heath.
Beard. American boys handy book. Scribner.

Blaisdell. Boy blue and his friends. Little.
Toy town. Little.
Bryant. Gordon and his friends. Houghton.
Bryce. Child-lore dramatic reader. Scribner.
Fables from afar. Newson.
Burgess. Goops and how to be them. Stokes.
Caldecott. Picture books. Warne.
Clark. Poppy seed cakes. Doubleday.
Coe. Story hour reader, bk. 1. American Book.
Collins. Boys book of model aeroplanes. Century.
Craik. Bow-wow and mew-mew. Whitman.
Dobias. Picture book of flying. Macmillan.
Eggleston. Stories of American life and adventure. American Book.
Stories of great Americans for little Americans. American Book.
Faulkner. Tales of many folk. Scribner.
Goodlander. Fairy plays for children. Rand.
Gordon and Hall. Nature stories for children, Spring and Autumn. Mentzer.
Greenaway. Marigold garden. Warne.
Grover. Overall boys. Rand.
Sunbonnet babies primer. Rand.
Grubb. Industrial primer. Heath.
Hader. Two funny clowns. Coward.
Hunt. About Harriet. Houghton.
Kuh. The delivermen. Macmillan.
The engineer.
The fireman.
The motorman.
The policeman.
Lear. Nonsense A B C. Macmillan.
Lomen and Flack. Taktuk, an Eskimo boy. Doubleday.
Lucia. Peter and Polly books. American Book.
Mace. A primary history. Rand.
Murray. New wide awake second reader.
Orton. Bobby of Cloverfield farm. Stokes.
Peary. The snow baby. Stokes.
Perkins. Dutch twins. Houghton.
Eskimo twins. Houghton.
Scudder. Book of fables and folk stories. Houghton.
Smith, E. B. The railroad book. Houghton.
Smith, J. W. The little Mother Goose. Dodd.
Smith, M. E. Eskimo stories. Rand.
Holland stories. Rand.
Van Sickle. Second reader.
Wiley. Mother Goose primer. Merrill.

A taste for books is the pleasure and glory of my life. It is a taste which I would not exchange for the wealth of the Indies. The miseries of life are never known to a man whose hours are insufficient for the inexhaustible pleasure of study.—Bacon.

Department of School Libraries

In the school library we have the seat of the school soul, the natural center of school unity.—Sir John Adams.

Tastes of the Teens: Books Young People Prefer and Why¹

Mrs. May Lamberton Becker, literary editor,
St. Nicholas

Now and again someone—never a librarian—asks me for a “list of books suitable for boys and girls from 12 to 16.” I wonder if they have quite forgotten what it was like to be young when they do not remember that during these years they went thru not one but a series of changes that seemed to them at the time transformations, and left the tastes of one period as outgrown for the next as last season’s shoes. Almost anything can happen to one’s reading habits during these four years: you may go into them hand in hand with Louisa Alcott and come out arm in arm with Bernard Shaw.

If this makes the teens sound like a road, all the better for this present discussion; I believe that we will enter upon it in a more fruitful frame of mind if we agree for this occasion to call up the image of an actual road, with young folks striding or sauntering, singly or in groups, and think of this as the time of the teens. And since to me a road means always a country road, I think of this time of life as such a green-shadowed thorofare, arched with trees, and under its dancing light and magic shade young people walking—all going one way, never turning back, seldom looking back, and all going somewhere. Wherever the trees part they look out with a long gaze, as they go, at the distant landscape, and tho they talk only of their own affairs and really talk only to one another, there is a spell upon the shaded road that sees to it nothing they see while they are upon it they will ever forget—

not the least flower scarcely noted as they went by, nor the glimpses of distance caught in passing, nor the companions, even the chance companions, that walked with them, nor the converse that they had. Everything means so much when it happens along this road; even while it is happening you have a curious inner conviction that it is important, that it will never be over. Remember all this, if you are one who has to do with young people as librarian, as teacher—as parent, for even parents often forget: think of youth as such a road, and remember that it is the nature of a road to lead to something. Those young people are ceaselessly going somewhere; they seldom look back, they never turn back; when they have come to where the green lane widens into a glare of grown-up light, they can stop somewhere and settle down, but so long as they are in the green lane they must be forever moving forward.

In a word, they are unconsciously preparing themselves for being grown-up, while savoring to the full the experiences of growing. This is one reason why mental meat for this time of life—at least so far as books supply it—is likely to be adventure and romance. They must find out about what is coming; they must get ready, so they think, for anything; nowhere is too far, nothing too beautiful to belong to that tomorrow toward which they are tending. Frankly I do not know what the world will be that waits for them even 10 years ahead, what trades will die and what opportunities be born; but I do know that there may be anything in it, and that it will call for young minds ready for anything. Something deeper than the mind seems to tell the teens to read adventure and romance.

¹ Presented at the Young People’s Reading round table, A. L. A. meeting, New Haven, Connecticut, June 24.

When I speak thus of adventure and romance I speak from a somewhat unusual opportunity of exchanging reading experiences with this particular time of life today. Most of us are apt to generalize from our own remembered reading as to what youth prefers to read, but tho young people may be much the same at heart as they were when I was fifteen, the books provided for them or at least accessible to them are immensely different. And when one has penetrated the reserve on personal matters by which youth protects itself against middle-age, and gathered opinions from present-day children, there is always the chance that one has generalized on insufficient evidence; one's own circle may be too narrow, one's own community not representative; while as for nationwide questionnaires, I have filled out too many of these itemized evasions to believe that one puts into them anything worth taking out. But when *The Scholastic*, a high school paper with a nationwide circulation, asked me to conduct a book department in addition to my work on the *Saturday Review of Literature*, I wrote for it an opening article in which I said that before I could hope to improve their reading habits I must know what they were, and would those who were interested tell me honestly the names of the 10 books they had thoroly enjoyed, and if possible, why they did. There must have been something provocative about that article; perhaps straightforwardness is always provocative; anyway, they rose to the occasion with an unmistakable honesty. Having no questions to answer, they wrote as they pleased, and they wrote 774 letters within a month, from literally every state in the Union, from farms, villages and cities large and small. Sometimes they told me why they did not like to read at all; always they told me something worth my reading. You must long since have found that when you talk to people about books older

people ask you, but children tell you; older people ask me "What is your opinion of The Forsyte saga?" but children say "Have you read The lance of Kenna? Well, you go and read it." The readers of *St. Nicholas* are now telling me about books as one tells a vivid and intimate experience: if I can write back and say I like the same book we have somehow struck fire between us. I think I now have, from young and old, the most fascinating mail in the world, for when one reader writes to another age-barriers temporarily go down.

I could not take your time to name all the books these letters named to me; enough for our present purpose to say that adventure and romance led all the rest. Even if I set aside detective and mystery stories as a separate category, adventure and romance would still have a good lead. I speak as tho they were one, and for the uses of the teens so they are, so many of their favorite romances being adventurous, so many adventure stories romantic. Perhaps I can best illustrate by one of the few minor classics that seems to be read at this age with enjoyment by both boys and girls, tho for different reasons—Lorna Doone. Boys read it for the sake of "girt Jan Ridd," girls for the sake of Lorna; girls skip all the fighting, boys skip all the love-making.

(Mrs. Becker further illustrated with books found to be general favorites, spoke of the growing interest in poetry which seems to depend largely on the treatment it gets in school, the curious aversion to history unless it has been rescued in advance by some story-telling parent, the rise of the classroom library, and its coöperation with the general library system.)

Come back for a moment in closing to that metaphor of the road; the green road going somewhere. I am a road-mender now for this stretch of thoro-fare; what Mary Mapes Dodge did for

me when I was young, I am now permitted to try my hand at doing for my dear old magazine. *St. Nicholas* is more than a magazine; it is a national institution, and its literary editorship a public trust, not only now but for the future. You and I are working together in many ways for America's future, as we have worked in the past; I promise you I will not forget that whatever young travelers read as they walk that magic road is not forgotten; I will not forget that what they read then helps to determine where they will settle when they reach open country ahead, and what they will do there. I know that all over the country you are acting on these convictions, and I promise you that in taking up, humbly but resolutely, the literary guidance of the oldest and newest magazine for American youth, these convictions will shape its conduct.

Technique of the Classroom Visit¹

The purpose of the classroom visit is twofold. The children must be informed of the location of the library, the library hours, privileges and responsibilities attendant on library cards, how to obtain a card, what to do in case of lost cards, fines, and other irregularities. The proportion of time allotted to this is dependent on the familiarity of the class with libraries and is of course largest in primary grades. Then the delights of reading and the seductive joys of the library must be attractively presented. A method which looks to the fulfillment of these purposes is here outlined. It applies to those systems where school visiting is an established policy.

A certain etiquette governs the visit to the school. The librarian enters the office, approaches the clerk, introduces herself, and asks to see the principal. She should go prepared to begin her

visiting immediately. If the principal wishes to make an appointment for some other time, it is tactful to graciously accede to his request. Courtesy dictates that one should never enter a classroom without the permission of the principal unless the freedom of the school has been specifically given. In some schools it is not the custom to knock on the classroom door. The librarian creates less disturbance if she quietly steps within and aside until the teacher greets her.

The first meeting with a teacher is most important. The librarian hopes to win her coöperation and friendship. In doing so she gains 30 to 50 children, since the teacher's indifference or active stimulation to library use exerts an enormous influence. The fundamental principles of the gentle art of meeting people apply here. Friendliness, tact, courtesy, sympathy, observation, are all in order.

After the visitor has stated her errand, it is well to ask the teacher whether she would prefer the talk at a later hour. It is always possible to return after visiting other rooms and this small consideration for the teacher's program helps the librarian's popularity not a little. If no objection is made she may proceed.

The preliminary formalities duly complied with, the children's librarian at last faces her critical audience. Naturally the preparation for this moment will have begun far in advance. Wherever possible the librarian will have informed herself of the general character of the school, the reading background of the children, the course of study for this particular grade, its special interests. A parochial school presents one problem, a school predominantly foreign another. She will have brought with her bright book jackets, lists, end papers, colored illustrations salvaged from discarded books, application blanks; perhaps mounted pictures or a picture book or two.

The talk itself may center around one topic chosen with all the skill and knowl-

¹ This article has been developed from the author's work as a children's librarian in the Public Library, Newark, New Jersey, and may be of interest to new assistants in that field.

edge of children's interests which the speaker possesses. It may be planned to include books which deal with one phase of the course of study. School, sport, adventure, and mystery stories always hold attention. A talk may mention briefly a miscellaneous selection of books designed to touch various types of children. Sometimes a discussion of books children have liked may be directed to pertinent suggestions along the same lines from the librarian. This is a good approach if carefully guided, otherwise it may degenerate into mere aimless chatter. Observation may note some project in progress, or the activity in which the class is engaged may make it profitable to discard the prepared talk and speak impromptu on the subject most live at the moment. Somewhere in the talk the fact side of the visit must be covered.

Whatever the topic a few general suggestions may be helpful. What the speaker says matters far less than the way in which she says it. With her first appearance, with her first words, an *entente cordiale* must be established. This is no more than to say that, like every public speaker, she must project her personality in such a way that a magic line of communication is clearly sensed. The children understand that she speaks their language. She must be sensitive to the response of the audience, ready to change her tack at the first sign of boredom. As to how all this is done experience is the best teacher. On the other hand the too intimate approach, the "just-between-me-and-you" mannerism, is to be avoided.

It may be said of invisible as of more tangible gifts:

Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare.

Perhaps she cannot take to her heart every book in the children's room. Nevertheless the speaker should try to include in each talk at least one book for which

she feels a personal enthusiasm; one over which she can become honestly excited, even thrilled; one whose enchantment for her never fades.

A literary critic has said that an author whose creative fever burns fiercely enough in his pages will be read regardless of whether his readers understand him or not. On much the same theory children may be attracted to a book by the pure force of the librarian's own fervor for it.

A record of all contacts with teachers should be kept on **small slips** (sometimes called "p" slips) in some such fashion as this:

Miss Jones	Grade 5B
On Roll 42	Room 203
Had Cards 28	
Using Cards 10	Book Talk 10-6-30
Term Project—Shelters—Will bring class to library soon. Promised list.	

Successive meetings and their nature should be noted on the same slip, thus a complete record of work with this teacher is available at all times. The teacher should be given applications if she has none.

The problem is not an easy one. In a 10 to 15 minute talk the librarian must give enough of her vitality, enthusiasm, social and literary skill to provoke that most penetrating of listeners, the child, to a more intense interest in books and libraries.

RUTH BEERS

California School Library Association

The Southern section of the California school library association elected the following officers for 1931-32:

President, Josephine Kenkel, Department of libraries, Long Beach city schools; vice-president, Mrs. Ethelene Kitching, Fullerton High School and Junior College; secretary, Elizabeth Neal, Compton High School and Junior College; treasurer, Lenore Townsend, Elementary School library, Beverly Hills.

News from the Field

East

Yale University library has been given an "unrivalled collection of George Meredith" by Frank Altschul, chairman of the trustees of Yale Library Associates. The collection contains the first editions of all of Meredith's books; original manuscripts, including the complete manuscript of *The tragic comedians*; and more than 150 letters covering every phase of Meredith's career. The collection was on exhibition in the Sterling Memorial library June 14-27.

Central Atlantic

Joseph Heathy Dulles, for 45 years librarian of Princeton Theological Seminary, has resigned. William Boyd Sheddan is appointed as his successor.

Willard Potter Lewis, librarian of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, has been appointed librarian of Pennsylvania State College, effective November 1.

Joseph Quincy Adams, Shakespearean scholar at Cornell University, has recently been appointed director of research at the Folger Shakespeare library, Washington, D. C.

The Library of Congress has acquired a collection of books said to have once belonged to the former Emperor Nicholas II of Russia. Most of the books bear the bookplate of the late Czar. One volume dates back to Peter the Great. Most of the volumes were presentation copies.

Dr. Lucius G. Moffat, professor in the Syracuse University romance language department, has been chosen by Professor J. D. M. Ford of Harvard to assist him as co-editor in the preparation of the famous Portuguese documents of the Palha library. The work will principally be centered on preparing the letters of John III, King of Portugal in

1530, and the members of his court, for publication from the original manuscripts.

The Newark Music Foundation has just purchased the entire music library of the late Louis Arthur Russell representing a collection of piano music, choral music of all kinds, sacred and secular, songs from all composers and for all voices; many orchestral scores and works for combinations of instruments; chamber music, madrigals and glees. The library will be part of the Music Foundation and will be known as the Louis Arthur Russell Memorial library.

Newark's library methods were praised highly for their efficiency and progressiveness by J. P. Lamb, chief librarian of Sheffield, England, who recently made a tour of inspection of the Newark free public library.

When he arrived in this country Mr. Lamb expressed a desire to visit the Newark library because of the similarity between Newark and Sheffield, both industrial cities with populations of approximately half a million. This is Mr. Lamb's first trip to the United States and he plans to visit leading libraries of the country.

Central

Clara F. Baldwin, director of libraries, State department of education, St. Paul, Minnesota, sailed for Europe June 19, to be gone until the fall.

M. Lillian Ryan, for several years librarian at Loyola University, Chicago, resigned June 15. Miss Ryan will spend the summer studying.

After two years as catalog librarian of the University of Mississippi, Angeline McNeil has become special cataloger in the Newberry library, Chicago.

Esther Greene (Simmons '28) recently accepted the position of librarian of the Park School, Cleveland, Ohio, and will take up her new duties in the fall.